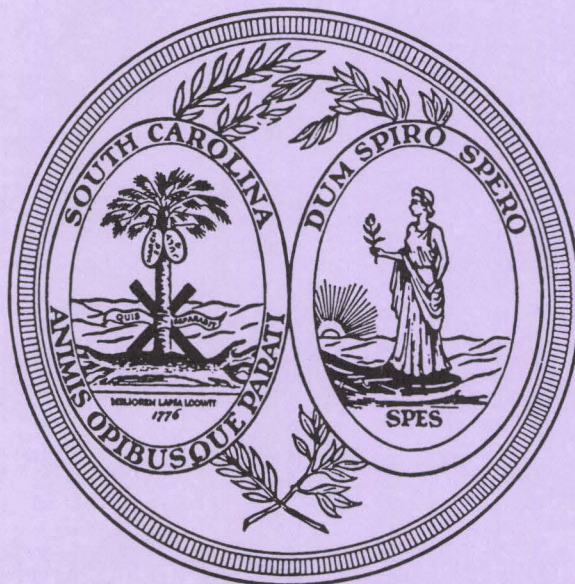


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SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM



ANNUAL REPORT 1991-1992

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STATE DOCUMENTS

State of South Carolina



Children's Foster Care Review Board System

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.
and Members of the General Assembly

I am pleased to report herein the activities of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System for the fiscal year 1991-92. Foster Care Review Board statistics revealed that the cases of 5216 children in public and private foster care were reviewed in 1991. A total of 8828 reviews were conducted by the local Boards and recommendations for permanent placement for these children were made to the Family Court and to appropriate agencies. In May, 1992, the Review Board initiated a new program through a contract with the South Carolina State Health and Human Services Finance Commission to review children placed in therapeutic placements funded by Medicaid.

The Agency has encouraged the return of children to their natural parents when appropriate, has promoted and encouraged all other agencies and facilities involved in placing children in foster care to place children with persons suitable and eligible as adoptive parents, has advised foster parents of their rights to petition the Family Court for termination of parental rights and adoption, and has recommended that all efforts be exerted by child caring facilities and agencies to arrange permanent foster care or guardianship where appropriate.

The Agency has reported any deficiencies in efforts to secure permanent homes for children regularly to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive and foster care agencies. The Agency has also compiled and included herein a summary of these deficiencies as well as recommendations regarding services to foster children in our State.

The Agency continues to see progress being made in the delivery of services to foster children and to their families; however, the Agency is concerned that this progress is limited by inadequate resources. We are committed to continue to work with all other agencies and systems involved with foster children to protect the rights and best interests of these children and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henrietta F. Gaillard".

Henrietta F. Gaillard
Chairperson, Board of Directors

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HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In the early 1970's in South Carolina many child welfare professionals and citizen groups began advocacy efforts on behalf of children in the foster care system. These efforts resulted from their concern over the plight of the child adrift in the foster care system. The ultimate result of these efforts was the establishment of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System in 1974, one of the first such organizations in the nation.

Six major private organizations between 1970 and 1974 spearheaded the initial efforts to obtain permanent homes for children in foster care. These organizations were the American Civil Liberties Union, the South Carolina Council for Human Rights, the South Carolina League of Women Voters, the Midlands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the South Carolina Youth Workers Association and Helping Hands of Aiken County. Child psychiatrists, child psychologists, social work professors, law professors and various church leaders also participated as private citizens to help give direction to the project.

Research to document the condition of foster care in South Carolina was a primary focus of these organizations. Four studies were done in cooperation with Representative Carolyn Frederick, Vice-Chairperson of the South Carolina General Assembly's Study Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters Pertaining to Children. The results of these four studies showed the following:

1. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the children in the Department of Social Services foster care program would neither return home nor be adopted under the existing system. Services were not being provided by the system to the parents to facilitate return home and no efforts were made to free many children eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute.
2. A survey of fourteen private and three public institutions, formerly known as orphanages, showed that the Department of Social Services placed 43% of the children while private placements accounted for 57% of the children placed. Some 20-50% of these children were eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute; however, none of these institutions stated that adoption was one of their services. In addition, most of these institutions offered no services to families to enable return of the children home.
3. Forty-three percent (43%) of the children in foster care had been in two or more foster placements and eighteen percent (18%) had been in three or more.
4. No method existed to keep track of children in foster care. The courts expressed concern about children being lost in the system. Even when children were freed for adoption, the courts had no way of knowing if the children had been placed adoptively.
5. The cost to taxpayers for keeping children in foster care was growing steadily with no resolution in sight.
6. Children were suffering irreparable psychological damage as victims of foster care drift.

The findings from these studies clearly indicated the need for a system to monitor the cases of children in foster care to achieve appropriate permanent placements for these children.

Thus, a statewide foster care review board system was legislated by the 1974 General Assembly. In March of 1975 Governor James Edwards, by Executive Order, established the Office of Child Advocacy as a division of the Office of the Governor. This Executive Order charged that the Office of Child Advocacy establish and coordinate the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and act as ombudsman on behalf of the abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children of the State. The initial funding for the Review Board System as part of the Office of Child Advocacy was shared by the State and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation.

In 1977 the Children's Foster Care Review Board System was fully funded by the General Assembly as a separate State Agency. The Office of Child Advocacy existed as a program of the Review Board System until 1980, at which time it was returned to the Governor's Office. While a part of the Review Board System, the Office of Child Advocacy conducted an ombudsman program for children in general and a training program in the prevention and identification of child abuse and neglect for hospitals and other organizations upon request.

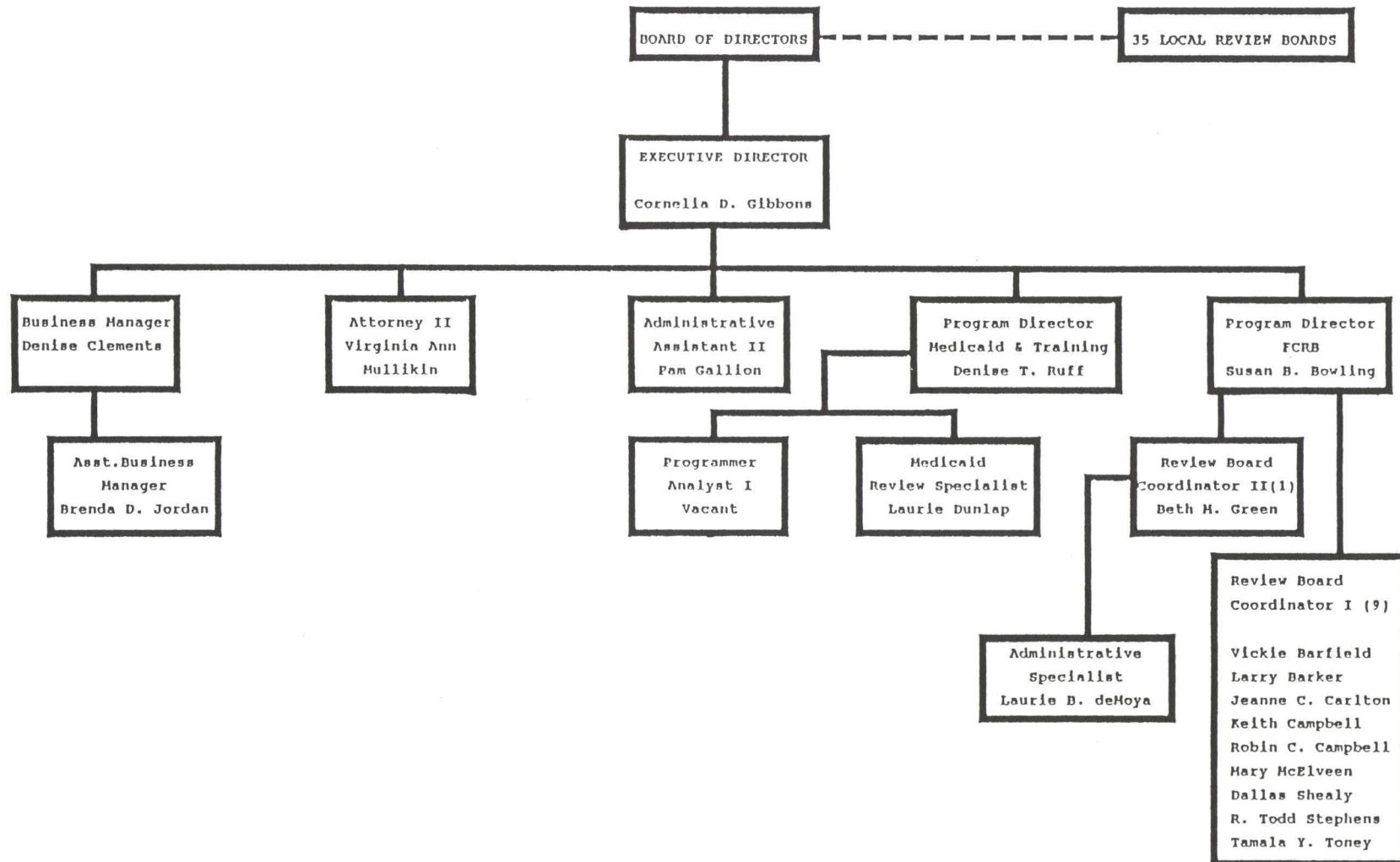
In 1985 the Review Board System was placed under proviso legislation in order to restructure and reorganize the Agency. Permanent legislation and regulations passed by the General Assembly in 1986 restored the Agency to permanent status.

The Children's Foster Care Review Board System is currently comprised of a staff of eighteen serving thirty-five Review Boards across the State. The Review Board System reviews the cases of approximately 5000 children in public and private facilities and institutions twice annually, statistically evaluates the state of foster care in South Carolina and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and child caring facilities as outlined by South Carolina law.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE AGENCY

Sections 20-7-2376 through 2397 of the South Carolina Code of Laws create the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and establish the Agency to administer case review in accordance with the provisions of Sections 20-7-2376 through 20-7-2397 as follows:

I. Board of Directors for Review of Foster Care of Children

The Board of Directors consists of seven members, all of whom must be past or present members of a local Review Board. There must be one member from each congressional district and one member from the State at large, all appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members of the Board of Directors serve four year terms and until their successors are appointed and qualify. A chairperson is elected from the membership of the Board of Directors for a two year term.

The Board of Directors is responsible for:

- a. the promulgation of regulations, pursuant to the provisions of South Carolina Code of Laws Section 20-7-2376 et seq., relating to the functions, policies, and procedures of the Review Board System;
- b. the promulgation of regulations to provide for review of necessary reports and other information required from state, county and private agencies and institutions, and to report to the Family Court on the status of court ordered treatment plans;
- c. the report of recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to foster care policies, procedures, and any deficiencies of public and private agencies and institutions which arrange for foster care for children;
- d. the annual report to the General Assembly which includes the recommendations and the activities of the Review Board System;
- e. the review and coordination of the activities of the local Review Boards;
- f. the creation or dissolution of local Review Boards as necessary to maintain appropriate caseloads for each Board; and
- g. the employment of the Agency Director.

II. Local Review Boards

There are thirty-five local Review Boards, each composed of five members, with at least one local Board in each of the sixteen judicial circuits throughout the state. Board members are appointed by the Governor upon recommendation by their respective legislative delegation. Their duties are as follows:

1. To review every six months but no less frequently than once every six months the cases of children who have resided in public foster care for a period of more than four consecutive months and to review every six

months the cases of children who have resided in private foster care for a period of more than six consecutive months to determine what efforts have been made by the supervising agency or child caring facility to acquire a permanent home for the child. In private foster care cases, Review Boards will recommend continued placement in the child caring facility unless the parents are able to resume care, in at least those instances when:

- a. children are privately placed in privately owned facilities or group homes; and
 - b. a notarized affidavit of summary review is executed by the child caring facility and is valid on its face; and
 - c. the affidavit of summary review is submitted to the Board every six months. It must be accepted by the Board if it attests to the statutorily mandated conditions and is valid on its face.
2. Except as provided in subsection (1), to encourage the return of children to their natural parents, or, upon determination during a case review of the local Review Board that this return is not in the best interest of the child, to recommend to the appropriate agency that action be taken for a maximum effort to place the child for adoption.
 3. To promote and encourage all agencies and facilities involved in placing children in foster care to place children with persons suitable and eligible as adoptive parents.
 4. To advise foster parents of their right to petition the Family Court for termination of parental rights and for adoption and to encourage these foster parents to initiate these proceedings in an appropriate case when it has been determined by the local Review Board that return to the natural parent is not in the best interest of the child.
 5. To recommend that a child caring facility or agency exert all possible efforts to make arrangements for permanent foster care or guardianship for children for whom return to natural parents or adoption is not feasible or possible as determined during a case review by the local Review Board.
 6. To report to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive or foster care agencies deficiencies in these agencies' efforts to secure permanent homes for children. These deficiencies are identified in the local Boards' review of these cases as provided for in subsection (1) of this section.

Any case findings or recommendations of a local Review Board are advisory.

Any person or agency aggrieved by an action or recommendation of a local Review Board may seek relief by petition to the Family Court of that county which shall issue a rule to show cause why the action or recommendation of the local Review Board should not be set aside or modified. If a child caring facility or agency is not in agreement with the local Review Board recommendation relating to permanent placement of a child in its care, the child caring facility or agency shall notify the chairman of the local Review Board within twenty-one days after receipt of the recommendation.

III. Administration

The Administrative Unit of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System consists of the Executive Director, General Counsel, Program Director for Medicaid and Training, Business Manager, Program Director for Foster Care Review and Administrative Assistant II.

The duties of this unit are as follows:

- a. to request and to administer funds necessary for the operation of the Review Board System;
- b. to hire and to supervise Review Board System employees;
- c. to recommend new policies and procedures for consideration by the Board of Directors;
- d. to supervise the day-to-day operation of the Review Board System and to ensure that current policies and procedures are implemented;
- e. to provide training for Review Board members and staff; and
- f. to conduct research and to maintain statistical data designed to improve the services to abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children in South Carolina.

The nine Review Board Coordinators serve as staff to the thirty-five local Review Boards. The Coordinators provide a full range of administrative support services to the Boards. Each Coordinator is assigned a caseload of four or five local Review Boards and is responsible for the following:

1. to plan and to facilitate all Review Board meetings with the local Review Board members and the involved agency or institutional staff;
2. to formalize and to distribute local Review Board recommendations;
3. to serve as a liaison to the local Review Boards to implement program objectives and procedural changes as necessary to ensure compliance with agency objectives and state and federal law;
4. to direct cases appropriate for legal action to the General Counsel from the local Review Boards and to participate in court hearings as necessary;
5. to participate in professional meetings to promote and improve services to children and families;
6. to maintain central files on cases reviewed by local Review Boards; and
7. to initiate appropriate follow-up on cases as necessary to facilitate permanent placement for foster children.

The Review Board Coordinator II provides technical assistance to local Review Boards and is responsible for administrative follow-up on case referrals. Review Board Coordinator training and special projects are also the responsibility of the Review Board Coordinator II.

The Assistant Business Manager provides support to the Review Board Financial Department and one Administrative Specialist performs clerical duties for staff..

IV. Medicaid Review System

On May 1, 1992 the State Health and Human Services Finance Commission (SHHSFC) contracted with the Children's Foster Care Review Board to develop a quality assurance review system for residential therapeutic placements of emotionally disturbed Medicaid eligible children under the age of twenty-one (21). This contract includes conducting initial reviews of all Medicaid eligible children who have been receiving treatment services from High and Moderate Management Group Homes and Therapeutic Foster Care (Levels I,II and III) for two consecutive months or longer. A six month review will be conducted for those Medicaid eligible children who remain in treatment following the initial review. The Medicaid review system was established as a separate program of the Children's Foster Care Review Board and operates accordingly.

The purpose of this review system is to ensure that the placements of these children are appropriate and the level of care provided to each child is offered in the least restrictive environment possible. Information on individual cases will be obtained through interviews with the referral agency casemanagers, provider agency casemanagers and intensive casemanagement service coordinators, if applicable. Staff consisting of a Medicaid Review Specialist and a programmer/analyst have been hired to conduct the reviews and to develop a data collection system on the children being reviewed. Specific data on the children, the providers and the type of services available to children needing therapeutic intervention will be tracked by the Medicaid Review System.

STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At Large

Mr. James Curtis Harkness
211 Limerick Drive
Aiken, SC 29801

Aiken County

1st Congressional District

Henrietta Gaillard, Chairperson
8 Weims Court
Charleston, SC 29401

Charleston County

2nd Congressional District

Ms. Cecelia Aversa
1108 Baywater Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169

Lexington County

3rd Congressional District

Ms. Lucy Wilkerson
152 Wilkerson Drive
Westminster, SC 29693

Oconee County

4th Congressional District

Ms. Carolyn Lee
7562 Lone Oak Road
Spartanburg, SC 29303

Spartanburg County

5th Congressional District

Ms. Judy Hamrick
202 Union Street
Gaffney, SC 29340

Cherokee County

6th Congressional District

Ms. JoAnn Waldrop
321 Rainwood Road
Conway, SC 29526

Horry County

LOCAL REVIEW BOARD CHAIRPERSONS

Review Board 1A	Doris Boone.....St. Matthews
Review Board 1B	Ginger Smoak.....Orangeburg
Review Board 2A	Becky Worrell Barnwell
Review Board 2B	Gail Ristow Aiken
Review Board 3A	Catherine Kirkpatrick Manning
Review Board 3B	Gail Corning.....Sumter
Review Board 4A	Martha AldermanLittle Rock
Review Board 4B	Sarah Campbell Chesterfield
Review Board 5A	Louisa Brown.....Columbia
Review Board 5B	Wilbur Tucker Columbia
Review Board 5C	Elizabeth Smith Columbia
Review Board 5D	Lillian Adderly Columbia
Review Board 5E	Eugene Rollins.....Columbia
Review Board 6A	June Stitzel Lancaster
Review Board 7A	Mary Lynn Melton Spartanburg
Review Board 7B	Laura Emrich Gaffney
Review Board 8A	Sue SummerNewberry
Review Board 8B	David Dougherty Greenwood
Review Board 9A	John F. Seignious.....Charleston
Review Board 9B	Rosetta Mitchell Goose Creek
Review Board 9C	Jerry CraigCharleston
Review Board 10A	Ralph CampbellWestminister
Review Board 10B	Linda Williams..... Easley
Review Board 11A	Marion Atkins.....Columbia
Review Board 11B	Almastine Butler..... Saluda
Review Board 12A	Gloria Harris..... Florence
Review Board 12B	Isabelle Bryant..... Mullins
Review Board 13A	Jane Price GoughClemson
Review Board 13B	Lillis Smith..... Greenville
Review Board 13C	Thomas Smith Greenville
Review Board 14A	Isabelle Dixon Garnett
Review Board 14B	Thelma Miller Beaufort
Review Board 15A	Pat Schooler Georgetown
Review Board 15B	M. Lou Michael Conway
Review Board 16A	Michael Snowber-Marini Rock Hill

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD STAFF

Cornelia D. Gibbons..... Executive Director
Vickie Barfield..... Review Board Coordinator
Larry Barker Review Board Coordinator
Susan B. Bowling Program Director/Foster Care Review
Keith Campbell..... Review Board Coordinator
Robin C. Campbell Review Board Coordinator
Jeanne C. Carlton Review Board Coordinator
Denise ClementsBusiness Manager
Laurie A. deMoyaAdministrative Specialist B
Laurie DunlapMedicaid Review Specialist
Pam Gallion.....Administrative Assistant II
Beth M. Green..... Review Board Coordinator II
Virginia Ann MullikinGeneral Counsel
Brenda D. Jordan..... Assistant Business Manager
Mary C. McElveen..... Review Board Coordinator
Denise T. Ruff..... Program Director/Medicaid and Training
Dallas Shealy..... Review Board Coordinator
Todd Stephens..... Review Board Coordinator
Tamala Y. Toney Review Board Coordinator

**COMPLIANCE WITH ACT 189, SECTION 129.50
SOUTH CAROLINA APPROPRIATIONS ACT 1990-91**

The South Carolina Appropriations Act 1989-90, Act 189, Section 129.50 requires that each agency of State Government include in its annual report a list of agency programs in order of priority and to identify efficiency and effectiveness measures for each program. The following information is provided by the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System to comply with this Act.

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System carries out the following statutorily mandated program:

- to review every six months, but no less frequently than once every six months, the cases of all children who have resided in public foster care for more than four consecutive months and to review every six months the cases of all children who have resided in private foster for a period of more than six consecutive months to determine what efforts have been made by the supervising agency or child caring facility to acquire a permanent home for the child;
- to report to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive or foster care agencies any deficiencies in these agencies' efforts to secure permanent homes for children which are discovered in the local Boards' review of these cases;
- to report to the Family Court on the status of court ordered treatment plans; and
- to make recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to foster care policies, procedures, and deficiencies of public and private foster care agencies.

The Review Board meets these program requirements through the activities of thirty-five (35) local Review Boards comprised of 175 Review Board members who function under the leadership of the State Board of Directors.

The Foster Care Review Board has evaluated the efficiency and effectiveness of its program using measures which meet the following criteria established by the Budget and Control Board: relevance, validity, significance, uniqueness, clarity, timeliness, reliability, quantification, practicality, completeness, and control.

In May, 1992 the Foster Care Review Board contracted with the Health and Human Services Finance Commission to develop a quality assurance review system of emotionally disturbed Medicaid eligible children placed in residential therapeutic placements. Effectiveness measures and statistical data for this program will be presented in the Children's Foster Care Review Board 1992-93 Annual Report.

Comparison of Measures

I. Number of Children Reviewed

<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
4500	4586	5018	5216

Number of Reviews Conducted

<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
7835	8112	8628	8828

II. Number of Review Board Meetings Conducted

<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
327	353	383	398

III. Number and Type of Recommendations Issued on Children Reviewed

1991

Please see Table T, page 60 of this report.

1990

Please see Table P, page 48 of the 1990 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

1989

Please see Table M, page 53 of the 1989 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

1988

Please see Table L, page 26 of the 1988 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

IV. Area of Concern Statistical Data

1991

Please see Table I page 31 of this report.

1990

Please see Table I, page 26 of the 1990 Annual Report of the South Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

1989

Please see Table I & II , page 28-32 of the 1989 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board

1988

Please see Table U, page 38 of the 1988-89 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

This data was reported to the Department of Social Services and to other agencies as relevant after each Review Board meeting, in four quarterly summaries, and as the final annual data contained in this report. Comparison of 1989 data to 1991 data shows an increase in the number of Areas of Concern but a lower mean percentile for total Areas of Concern, thereby reflecting improvement in service delivery to foster children.

<u>1989</u>		<u>1990</u>		<u>1991</u>	
Mean Percentile	40.9	Mean percentile	38.7	Mean percentile	37.6
Standard Deviation of scores for DSS counties	16.1	Standard Deviation of scores for DSS counties	25.3	Standard Deviation of scores for DSS counties	18.6

V. Demographic Evaluative Data on the Foster Care Population and the Foster Care Review Board Process

1991

Please see Section X, page 44 of this report.

1990

Please see Section X, page 35 of the 1990 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

1989

Please see Section X, page 41 of the 1989 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

1988

Please see Section VIII, page 14 of the 1988-89 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

The demographic data in the report indicates that the average length of stay in foster care has decreased from 3.1 years in 1988 to 2.7 years in 1991. Also of note in this data is the increase in the number of parties attending reviews from 6186 in 1988 to 9712 in 1991. This increased attendance reflects the effectiveness of the review process.

VI. Annual Recommendations to the General Assembly

1991

The 1991-92 Recommendations, found on pages 15-26 of this report are based on the analysis of the data in Sections IX and X and on the findings made by the Foster Care Review Board Adoption Ad Hoc Study Committee. These recommendations meet the program requirement that the Foster Care Review Board annually make recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to foster care policies, procedures, and deficiencies of public and private foster care agencies.

1990

Please see pages 13-18 of the 1990-91 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System

1989

Please see pages 15-19 of the 1989-90 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System

1988

Please see pages 44-47 of the 1988-89 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

1991-92 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The delivery of adoption services by the South Carolina Department of Social Services was the subject of a 1991 study conducted by the Foster Care Review Board. The adoption program was selected for study because of the large number of children whose recommended permanent plan was termination of parental rights and adoption. The study was conducted by an Ad Hoc Adoption Committee appointed by the Foster Care Review Board State Board of Directors.¹

The Ad Hoc Adoption Committee reviewed and evaluated selected adoption practices in South Carolina. The purpose of this review was to identify barriers in the delivery of adoption services and to provide information on adoption services to local Review Board members.

Simultaneous to the Review Board Ad Hoc Adoption Committee, a South Carolina Department of Social Services study committee was established to review and make recommendations in response to the study of the Division of Adoption and Birth Parent Services conducted by OMNI, Inc. These studies, *Analysis of Current Performance Environments and State Office Staffing Needs of the Division of Adoption and Birth Parent Services*, OMNI Services, Inc. and the *Adoption Committee Guidelines for Implementing the OMNI Performance Appraisal Recommendations for the Division of Adoption and Birth Parent Services, Final Report, February 19, 1992*, are incorporated herein by reference.

The following recommendations are based on both the Foster Care Review Board findings and the OMNI report. Each recommendation includes a response from the Department of Social Services delineating the progress made since receipt of the OMNI study in November, 1990.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations made by the Adoption Ad Hoc Committee are presented below. The Committee identified seven areas for study: 1) adoption assessment; 2) recruitment; 3) foster parent adoption; 4) communication; 5) training; 6) termination of parental rights; and, 7) relative adoptions. A recommendation, with supporting documentation, appears for each of the seven categories identified by the Committee. The categories were selected based on specific concerns identified by local Review Board members.

¹The following individuals were appointed to serve on the Ad Hoc Adoption Committee: Judy Hamrick, Gaffney, State Board of Directors; Gail Corning, Review Board 3A, Sumter; Wilbur Tucker, Review Board 5B, Richland; Linda Williams, Review Board 10B, Anderson; Cornelia Gibbons, Review Board staff; Denise Ruff, Review Board staff; and, Susan Bowling, Review Board staff.

I. Adoption Assessment

The Division of Adoption and Birth Parent services must develop thorough guidelines on adoption assessments to insure that maximum efforts are made to locate adoptive homes for all children who cannot return to their birth parents and for whom adoption is the recommended permanent plan.

FCRB Ad Hoc Findings:

- Enabling legislation for The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board, *SC Code Section 20-7-2376(C)*, states that if return to a child's parents is not in the best interest of the child, that the local Board must recommend that the appropriate agency exert maximum efforts to place the child for adoption. The South Carolina Children's Policy, *SC Code Section 20-7-20(D)* states that "when children must be permanently removed from their homes, they shall be placed in adoptive homes so that they may become members of a family by legal adoption or, absent that possibility, other permanent settings." The Committee was unanimous in their concern that the Department of Social Services is not making maximum effort to adequately assess the possibility of adoption for all children in foster care who cannot return to their parents.

OMNI Study Committee Recommendations

- Recommendation 5 from the Systems Subcommittee of the OMNI Study Committee states that a high priority should be given to adoption assessment issues within the Department of Social Services. The Subcommittee further recommended that guidelines be developed for: 1) determining whether an adoptive home can be found for a child, and 2) clarifying which Department of Social Services staff are responsible for adoption assessment and when an assessment should occur. These recommendations further illustrate the need for specific agency policy and training in the area of adoption assessment.

Department of Social Services Response:

The Division of Adoption and Birth Parent services acknowledged that training and additional clarification of roles and responsibilities between adoption and permanency planning staff would help alleviate some of the problems noted in this recommendation. Agency budget cuts eliminated joint training plans for the programs in 1991 and the availability of funds for future training is questionable. An initiative implemented by the Department is to have the Children, Family and Adult Services Advisory Committee review additional staff guidelines as they are developed to help insure a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities.

II. Recruitment

The Division of Adoption and Birth Parent Services must expand current recruitment efforts and develop child specific recruitment programs for all South Carolina children waiting for adoptive placement .

FCRB Ad Hoc Findings:

- Adequate adoption recruitment services are essential to move children out of foster care into permanent homes in a timely manner. A computer search of Foster Care Review Board case reviews between January - June, 1991 identified 940 children for whom both the Foster Care Review Board and the Department of Social Services recommended termination of parental rights and adoption as the permanent plan. A sample of 190 children was drawn from this population for detailed statistical analysis. This sample included 133 (70%) children who were classified as having special needs² with 57 (30%) designated as non-special needs. A complete summary of this analysis is can be found in Appendix A, Page 69. Department of Social Services procedures allow child specific recruitment for children with special needs who have no prospective adoptive home identified. Non-special needs children, in contrast, do not receive child specific recruitment services. Instead adoptive families for these children are identified by a computer matching process.

The Adoption Ad Hoc Committee identified the three following areas in which adoption recruitment for all children could be improved:

1. The Committee felt strongly that all children waiting for adoption should have access to child specific recruitment efforts, not just those children with special needs. Thirty percent (30%) of the children identified in the Review Board analysis were non-special needs.
2. An article that appeared in The State on November 21, 1991, indicated that the Department of Social Services had 767 children with special needs that were in need of adoptive placement. The Council on Adoptable Children (COAC) reported to the Committee that only 96 children attended the Waiting Children's Picnic sponsored by their organization on October 26, 1991. Better utilization of this excellent resource provided by COAC could enhance recruitment efforts.

²Special needs children are defined by the Department of Social Services as being: 1) white children ten years old or older; 2) black or biracial children six years old or older; 3) a physically, mentally or emotionally handicapped child or a child at risk for physical, mental or emotional handicaps; 4) a member of a white sibling group of three or more children, one of whom is over six years of age, or a sibling group of four or more children of any age; 5) a member of a black sibling group of two or more children, one of whom is over six years of age, or a sibling group of three or more children of any age.

3. South Carolina Seedlings and the Southeastern Adoption Exchange (SEEUS) coordinate statewide and regional photo listing services for children who wait for adoptive placement. Information gathered by the Ad Hoc Adoption Committee from both of these organizations indicates that photolisting services are under utilized for recruitment purposes by the Department of Social Services. If adoption is the stated plan for a child and no adoptive home has been identified by the Department within ninety (90) days, *SC Code Section 20-7-1895* requires that referrals be made to an adoption photolisting exchange. South Carolina Seedlings and SEEUS told the Committee that they did not feel they were routinely receiving the number of referrals they should be receiving on waiting children as defined by statute.

OMNI Recommendations

- The OMNI study concurred with the Foster Care Review Board that adoption recruitment be expanded. One recommendation was for the Department of Social Services to expand the general recruitment program currently located in State Office to strengthen the capacity to conduct recruitment activities on behalf of waiting children. This general adoption recruitment would include enhancing the agency's ability to produce public service announcements, maintaining adoption program contact with church and community groups, providing information to television and radio programs on adoption, submitting adoption recruitment material to state newspapers and newsletters and providing recruitment training and monitoring to staff of area offices.
- The OMNI study also recommended that the Department decentralize child specific recruitment efforts to the area offices. Child specific recruitment activities include: increased utilization of state, regional and national adoption exchanges; preparation of newspaper articles on specific waiting children; the coordination of local television spots highlighting specific children and facilitation of speakers' programs and waiting children adoption events. OMNI recommended that area offices have access to the state office database on identified families interested in adoption in order to better coordinate waiting children and families.

OMNI Study Committee Recommendations

- The Services Subcommittee of the OMNI study committee adopted OMNI's recommendations as to recruitment and also recommended that the agency work to clarify the types of recruitment needed for special needs and non-special needs children. The Subcommittee also recommended that the Department inventory available recruitment materials for use by staff at the local levels. When additional materials are needed, the Subcommittee recommended that State Office assume the responsibility for the development of such material.
- Department of Social Services Response:

One issue of concern raised by the Department of Social Services about the Review Board recommendation on recruitment was the need to clarify

the number of children for whom adoption services may be necessary. The Department of Social Services has requested that the Foster Care Review Board provide the list of children included in the study so that the two agencies can reconcile the total population of children in need of adoption services. The Foster Care Review Board population reflects the number of children for whom the county Department of Social Services presents a plan of termination of parental rights. The Division of Adoption and Birth Parent Services identifies their population of children waiting for adoption by cases entered into a tracking system after adoption staff have concurred that adoption is the best plan for the child. The Foster Care Review Board is apparently presented with adoption as the plan prior to adoptive staff approval and entry into the tracking system. The Foster Care Review Board has agreed to provide the Department of Social Services with an updated listing of all children who have adoption stated as the long range permanent plan.

The Department acknowledged that there is much more that should be done to expand recruitment efforts in South Carolina and noted that special recruitment programs have been implemented in two area offices. The Department is also working closely with the Council on Adoptable Children (COAC) to expand the Waiting Children's Party to different areas of the state. Efforts are currently being made to increase the number of children featured in state, regional and national adoption exchanges. Budget cuts and frozen staff positions have made it difficult to expand statewide efforts in the area of recruitment, but recruitment continues to be a stated priority for the Department. The Department is in complete agreement with the finding that all children for whom adoption is the plan need to receive active, on-going recruitment services to locate an adoptive family when there is no appropriate family on the waiting list.

III. Foster Parent Adoption

The Division of Adoption and Birth Parent Services and the Permanency Planning Division of the Department of Social Services must coordinate efforts in order to improve services and information available to foster parents interested in adoption.

FCRB Ad Hoc Findings:

- Foster parents are an important permanent resource for children who cannot return to their families. The statistical analysis conducted by the Ad Hoc Adoption Committee (see Appendix A) indicated foster parent adoption was the agency's plan in fifty percent (50%) of one hundred and ninety (190) sample cases studied. Thirty-two percent (32%) of the special needs children identified in the sample were to be adopted by their foster parents. This data supports the need to further develop foster parents as viable adoptive resources for children who will be freed for adoption. The viability of foster parents as potential adoptive resources is confirmed by Judith Anderson of the North American Council on Adoptable Children

(NACAC).³ Ms. Anderson cites a study conducted by Barth and Berry (1989) which found that, in spite of insufficient adoption assistance, adoption succeeds in ninety-four percent (94%) of all foster parent adoptions.

OMNI Study Committee Recommendations

- The Systems Subcommittee of the OMNI Study Committee made several recommendations related to foster parents as potential adoptive resources. The first recommendation was to increase the priority for foster parent adoptions within the Division of Adoption and Birth Parent Services. As a part of this effort, the Subcommittee recommended that the Department locate additional funding to pay for medical exams for each member of the foster family as required by policy in the current adoptive process. Currently, foster families assume the financial responsibility for these medicals and such costs are prohibitive for many families.
- Another recommendation made by the Systems Subcommittee of the OMNI study committee was for the Department to explore avenues to secure funding which can be used to legally finalize foster parent adoptions. Current policy requires that foster families who wish to adopt a child in their care must pay legal costs in advance in order to finalize the adoption. Families who adopt special needs children may be reimbursed with federal funds for one time finalization costs at a later time; however, most families do not have the resources to pay these costs in advance. Foster families adopting non-special needs children assume the full financial costs of finalizing their child's adoption. This substantial outlay of funds often prohibits foster families from pursuing an adoptive commitment to a child in their care and may eliminate the best permanent home for that child.
- The Systems Subcommittee also recommended that the Division of Adoption and Birth Parent Services become more involved at the time of placement when infants are placed in foster homes and the plan for the infant is adoption. This would allow children to be placed with appropriate foster/adoptive families and would provide additional monitoring of case transfer procedures between the permanency planning and adoption programs.
- Department of Social Services Response:

The Department of Social Services strongly supports the concept of foster parent adoption and recognizes that several changes would simplify this process for the parties involved. The Department agreed to review the Child Placing Agency Regulations to determine if there was any way the agency could assist foster families with medical expenses required by adoption procedures that are not covered by insurance. The Department also agreed to request funding to cover legal expenses for foster parents when necessary to facilitate the adoption process. The implementation of both of these changes will be determined by the availability of funding within the Department of Social Services.

³Interview with Judith Anderson, September 23, 1991.

The issue of infants initially placed with foster parents who later become adoptive applicants was also addressed in response to this concern. The Department acknowledged that this is largely a training and communication problem that must be coordinated between permanency planning and adoption staff. Joint training in this area will be a priority for the Department if funds are made available.

IV. Communication

Effective communication between the State Office of Adoption and Birth Parent Services, Regional Adoption Offices, and county permanency planning staff must be a priority for the Department of Social Services.

FCRB Ad Hoc Findings:

- A significant number of children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board each year cannot return to their parents in spite of efforts made to reunite the family. When return home is not possible, adoption is the only other option that establishes a permanent, legal commitment between a child and another family. The Ad Hoc Adoption Committee unanimously agreed that more emphasis must be placed on the ability of adoption and permanency planning workers to understand and to communicate the benefits of adoption as a permanent plan for children who cannot return home. Reports from Review Boards around the state indicate that adoption is often ruled out as a possible option for a child based on a worker's negative perception of adoption or based on a worker's lack of information about the adoption process, rather than being based on facts which indicate that adoption may or may not be in the best interest of the child.

OMNI Recommendations

- The OMNI report examined the ability of Area adoption staff to work closely with county permanency planning staff and found that this proves difficult in some areas because of local differences in how adoption referrals and case transfers are handled. Adoption referral procedures and screening criteria are frequently unclear and are applied differently in different areas. Efforts have been made by the Division of Birth Parent and Adoptive Services to clarify the roles and responsibilities of adoption and permanency planning staff, however, training and a system for on-going communication between the two programs must be established.

OMNI Study Committee Recommendations

- The Systems Subcommittee agreed with OMNI's findings on problematic communication between the two programs and recommended that additional training be provided on roles and responsibilities and on the referral function between adoption and permanency planning staff.

- Department of Social Services Response:

A lack of funding for joint training between adoption and permanency planning workers was cited by the Department of Social Services as the major barrier to resolving this issue.

V. Training

The Division of Adoption and Birth Parent Services must develop specific, standardized training on policy and current practice methodologies for all adoption workers, permanency planning workers, adoptive families and foster families interested in adoption.

FCRB Ad Hoc Findings:

The Foster Care Review Board has consistently recommended that adequate training be made available to all Department of Social Services caseworkers and foster parents in order to provide them with the skills necessary to fulfill their increasing job responsibilities. Recommendations to enhance training opportunities for Department of Social Services' staff have been made in the last three annual reports to the General Assembly prepared by the Foster Care Review Board. *South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board Annual Report 1990-91, South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board Annual Report 1989-90 and South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board Annual Report 1988-89* are incorporated herein by reference. The Ad Hoc Adoption Committee identified a lack of adequate training as a continuing problem in the area of adoption procedures.

OMNI Recommendations

- The OMNI study concurred with the Review Board that the lack of specific adoption focused training available through the Department of Social Services for caseworkers was a major concern. OMNI determined that the current certification/re-certification training which has been in place since adoption workers carried mixed foster care and adoption caseloads was inadequate to meet the specialized requirements that now face adoption staff. OMNI also noted the shortage of material on the adoption program for new county permanency planning workers. The last half day of the current training points out the basics of adoption services and clientele served; however, no material is presented on the intra-agency workings of the adoption program. OMNI also expressed concern that there is no agency requirement that any training be completed before assuming adoption caseload responsibilities.
- Area administrators and supervisors expressed concern to OMNI that new adoption workers are not provided the training necessary to perform key adoption casework activities. They pointed out that the current certification curriculum is too general and philosophical to meet the needs of the experience level of workers recruited for adoption positions. There are also specific skills necessary for adoption casework that are unique to the

adoption field, such as recruitment, adoptive home studies, post-adoption crisis counseling and many legal aspects of adoption casework. New adoption workers learn these skills once they assume caseloads, not through training. OMNI was repeatedly told by adoption staff that, "We train ourselves."

- The OMNI report noted that national resources indicate that innovative cross training programs for foster and adoptive parents have been very successful. In the 1990 review of current trends produced by the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC), Kentucky and Tennessee are praised for their efforts to implement joint recruitment and training programs that address the demands placed on both adoptive and foster families. New Jersey and Michigan also are finding that joint programs produce better trained and better equipped foster families who then become excellent adoptive resources for waiting children. The South Carolina Council on Adoptable Children (COAC) expressed a willingness to participate in the development and delivery of such a training program if implemented by the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

- Department of Social Services Response:

Lack of funding for joint training between adoption and permanency planning workers was cited by the Department of Social Services as the major barrier to resolving this issue.

VI. Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)

The Permanency Planning Division of the Department of Social Services, in conjunction with State Office Legal Services, should develop specific guidelines and training to assist workers in the preparation of cases for termination of parental rights.

FCRB Ad Hoc Findings:

- The current procedures used by the Department of Social Services to initiate and complete the termination of parental rights process for children who cannot return home was identified by the Review Board as a significant barrier to permanence for children in the foster care system. The analysis of data gathered by the Ad Hoc Adoption Committee (see Appendix A) indicated that less than half (47%) of the one hundred and ninety (190) children in the sample group had been referred to legal services in order to initiate action for termination of parental rights. This is in spite of the fact that the stated plan for all of the children in the sample was termination of parental rights and adoption. It is impossible for cases to proceed towards permanence if identified children are not being referred in a timely manner to Legal Services by permanency planning workers. Fifty-percent (50%) of the children in the sample were to be adopted by foster parents, therefore identification of a prospective adoptive family did not impose an additional delay. The Ad Hoc Adoption Committee recommends that paralegal support for county permanency planning staff be provided as an effective way to deal with the delays in the TPR process.

The Committee also met with the Director of Substitute Care and secured an agreement that the Department of Social Services would re-visit the casework practice model to see if there were better ways to utilize this document as a preparation tool for termination of parental rights summaries.

- The State Board of Directors for the Foster Care Review Board has appointed an Ad Hoc study committee to examine issues surrounding delays in the termination of parental rights process. This committee will be operational during 1992-93. Recommendations and findings of this committee will be included in the Review Board Annual Report for 1992-93.

US Department of Health and Human Services Barriers Report:

- The Office of the Inspector General of the US Department of Health and Human Services issued a report in February 1991 entitled *Barriers to Freeing Children for Adoption* which is incorporated herein by reference. The research conducted for this report found that the reason children spend longer periods of time than necessary in foster care is that the process of legally freeing children for adoption takes too long. The executive summary of the report states, "Implementing plans of adoption takes longer than implementing other types of placement for children. The gravity of the issues and the complexity of the legal processes explain some of the additional implementation time. Child welfare and legal professionals express concern, however, that the first part of the implementation process, freeing children from the legal ties to their parents through termination of parental rights, unnecessarily slows or disrupts adoption placements. Children often remain in foster care for extended periods after permanent placement plans have been established for them, undermining their opportunities for successful adoptive placement and placing them in a legal and psychological limbo in terms of family identification."
- *Barriers to Freeing Children for Adoption* also expresses concern that states do not give termination of parental rights and adoption the priority as a permanent plan that it should receive as required by Public Law 96-272. The report notes that because of the social and legal status of families and the recognition of the importance of biological ties, practitioners are reluctant to sever family ties. In addition, evidence gathered for this report clearly indicates that the process of freeing children for adoption takes longer than necessary, certainly longer than the best interests of the child dictate. One recommendation contained in the report is to offer increased training on permanency planning, in general, and on termination of parental rights, in particular, for child welfare staff, judges, public attorneys and the staffs of contractual service providers.

OMNI Study Committee Recommendations

- The Systems Subcommittee of the OMNI Study Committee also noted problems with legal delays in preparing cases for termination of parental rights. The Subcommittee recommended that the Department of Social Services review the policies and procedures currently in place for termination of parental rights to see what changes could be made to facilitate the process. The Subcommittee also gave a high priority to the

recommendation that the Department of Social Services quarterly monitor the progress towards termination of parental rights on each case.

- Department of Social Services Response:

The Department is interested in conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the termination of parental rights process and is working on ways to identify resources to support such a study. According to the Department, training, support and activities directed at reducing delays will be the types of initiatives undertaken once the agency better understands which parts of the termination process need to be enhanced. Budget constraints have limited the amount of training and on-going support that the office of General Counsel is able to provide to the counties on termination of parental rights.

VII. Relative Adoption

The Permanency Planning and Birth Parent and Adoption Divisions of the Department of Social Services must establish guidelines and criteria for the assessment of relatives as permanent adoptive families for children who cannot return to their parents.

FCRB Ad Hoc Findings:

- The purpose of establishing permanent plans for children is to insure that they leave the foster care system as safely and as rapidly as possible. When possible, extended family should always be the first consideration for initial out-of-home placement to reduce disruption in the child's life. However, once children remain in foster care for extended periods of time, the need for a long-term commitment to the child should become the primary focus, not just the willingness of a family member to take a child into his home. The Review Board determined that in most cases, after determining that a child cannot return home, the agency prefers to transfer legal custody to an identified relative rather than pursuing the more permanent alternative of adoption with that relative or with another adoptive family. Legal or financial assistance from the Department of Social Services is rarely available to relatives who wish to adopt children placed in their care by the Department. The Ad Hoc Adoption Committee was unable to determine clear policy directives from the Department of Social Services on the subject of relative adoptions.

US Department of Health and Human Services Barriers Report:

- *Barriers to Freeing Children for Adoption* found that one significant administrative barrier to securing permanence for children was the failure of states to locate and facilitate relative adoptions for children in the foster care system. The report determined that delays in locating possible relative placements for children immediately upon entry into foster care too often delayed future permanency planning attempts. The agency's failure to immediately collect and maintain information about the location of relatives and missing parents who are not actively involved in family

treatment can create serious legal delays when trying to free a child for adoption. The report recommends that states try early in the process to identify relatives who might be willing to adopt children to secure permanency early in the foster care process.

- Department of Social Services Response:

The Department of Social Services is aware that national standards on placement of children in the homes of relatives are being developed and the Department plans to incorporate these standards as agency procedures are revised. The Department maintains that the reason legal and financial assistance is not offered to relatives who wish to adopt is that the Department does not provide assistance to non-relative adoptive families who adopt non-special needs children in the custody of the Department of Social Services.

The issue of relative care is currently being addressed by the Children, Family and Adult Services Advisory Committee. This group will develop internal guidelines which will increase a relative's awareness of the benefits of adoption and communicate a common positive message to relatives about the adoption process.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DATA REGARDING AREAS OF CONCERN AND DELAYS TO PERMANENCE

January 1, 1991 - December 31, 1991

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System is mandated by SC Code Section 20-7-2376 et.seq. to report annually to the General Assembly any deficiencies identified during the course of case review in the custodial agency's efforts to acquire a permanent home for each child in foster care or prospective adoptive placement. The written advisory recommendation issued by the local Review Board on each case indicates any deficiencies identified on that case. Such deficiencies are described as Areas of Concern or Delays to Permanence.

Since a major focus of the Foster Care Review Board System is to help systems to work for children, the identification and analysis of significant barriers or concerns which may prevent timely, permanent placement is essential. Areas of Concern are defined as violations of federal law, state law or public agency policy which have been determined by the Foster Care Review Board to be significant barriers in the provision of permanency planning services to children in foster care. The definitions for the Areas of Concern are presented on pages 32-33 of this report. Delays to Permanence are noted on cases in which the local Board determines that there have been unnecessary delays in the completion of a permanent plan for a child. Statistical data regarding Delays to Permanence are presented on pages 40-42 of this report.

Data regarding statewide comparative statistics on the percentage of cases with Areas of Concern and Delays to Permanence are described on page 43.

Please note that although the Department of Social Services holds custody and service delivery responsibility for the 4636 children in public foster care reviewed by the Boards in 1991, the Department of Social Services is not responsible for all of the barriers or deficiencies mentioned in this report. Service delivery to foster children involves the complex interaction of many systems, any one of which may be a contributing factor which prolongs a child's stay in foster care.

Areas of Concern

For purposes of data analysis, the twenty Areas of Concern tracked by the Foster Care Review Board during 1991 are divided into three categories:

- 1) violations of Federal statutory requirements related to Section 427 of Public Law 96-272¹ and S.C. Code Section 20-7-766;

¹Federal Section 427 requirements do not apply to children in private foster care placements because the Federal law applies only to children in public foster care.

- 2) violations of state law in regard to untimely merit hearings, non-compliance with court orders and violations of regulations related to foster care review that have been enacted by the General Assembly; and
- 3) violations of programmatic policies and procedures established by public agencies related to the delivery of child welfare services.

Statewide totals for each Area of Concern and associated percentages are presented in Table I on page 31 of this report. Totals and percentages for each county and area adoption office are presented in Table II and Table III on pages 34-39.

AREAS OF CONCERN

CATEGORY I

- No timely foster care review: agency worker absent ²
- Child's entry into foster care not reported timely ³
- No timely judicial review ⁴
- No written case plan for the child ⁵
- No written case plan established within 60 days ⁶
- Case plan specified for child not complete ⁷
- No time frame for completion of child's permanent plan ⁸
- No progress on permanent plan ⁹

Areas of Concern identified in the first category relate to the procedural safeguards for children in foster care which are outlined by Federal law and required by S.C. Code Section 20-7-766. Section 427 of PL 96-272 contains the core of the 1980 foster care reforms passed by the federal government. This section provides that for each fiscal year after 1980, a state may receive federal incentive funds only if it has met specified conditions of the public law. The Areas of Concern cited by the Foster Care Review Board in this category are violations of the established procedures which the federal government monitors during the

²SC FCRB Reg. 24-23(B)

³SC FCRB Reg. 24-17(A)

⁴SC Code Section 20-7-766; PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(c); Failure to conduct timely judicial reviews can be documented as a violation of state law as well as a violation of federal requirements. Statistical data tracked in this category includes both state and federal violations in this area.

⁵PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(1); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(A)

⁶PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(1); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(A); DSS Directive Memo D88-210

⁷PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(1); PL 96-272 Section 475 (5)(A) & (B)

⁸PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(B)

⁹PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(B)

routine audits of the Department of Social Services. Failure to meet federal compliance standards, as identified during the routine 427 audits, could result in the loss of millions of dollars in federal funds to the State of South Carolina. The next Federal Audit conducted in South Carolina will be based on cases of children in foster care from October, 1990 through October 1991. The Foster Care Review Board, as in previous audits, will provide available information, as requested, to the Department of Social Services to assist with the 1990-91 audit.

CATEGORY II

- No timely ten day hearing held on child's case ¹⁰
- No timely merit hearing held on child's case ¹¹
- Non-compliance with court orders
- No court orders presented at review ¹²
- Interested parties not invited to attend reviews ¹³
- Interested parties invited to attend reviews not given three week notice ¹⁴
- No notice of non-concurrence with Review Board recommendation submitted ¹⁵
- No psychologicals presented at review ¹⁶
- Adoption complaint not filed timely ¹⁷

The second category addresses the following violations of state law in regard to untimely ten day and merit hearings, non-compliance with court orders, violations of time frames specified by the adoption statute and violations of regulations related to foster care review that have been enacted by the General Assembly:

- 1) South Carolina Code Section 20-7-610 requires that a hearing, to determine if emergency protective custody was warranted on all children who enter foster care through emergency protective custody, be held within ten days of the removal.
- 2) South Carolina Code Section 20-7-736 requires that a hearing on the merits of a child's removal be held within 40 days;
- 3) South Carolina Code Section 20-7-2379 requires that the Foster Care Review Board report to the Family Court on the status of court ordered treatment plans;

¹⁰ SC Code Section 20-7-610; SC Code Section 20-7-736

¹¹ SC Code Section 20-7-610; SC Code Section 20-7-736

¹² FCRB Reg. 24-15(P); SC Family Court Rule 26(C)

¹³ FCRB Reg. 24-9

¹⁴ FCRB Reg. 24-9

¹⁵ FCRB Reg. 24-35 also S. C. Code Section 20-7-2391

¹⁶ FCRB Reg. 24-15(Q)(R)

¹⁷ SC Code Section 20-7-1730

- 4) the issuance of a Recommendation by the Foster Care Review Board is predicated upon the receipt of appropriate information from the presenting agency; therefore, specific information to be provided for each review by the presenting agency is outlined in regulations promulgated pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 20-7-2379.
- 5) Foster Care Review Board Regulation 24-9 requires that certain interested parties be invited to attend case reviews and that these parties receive at least three weeks advance notice of the date and time for the review in order that they may make arrangements to participate in the review if they choose to do so.

CATEGORY III

- Agency policy or procedure violation ¹⁸
- Inaccurate Information Presented at Review ¹⁹
- Other

The third category focuses on areas of social work practice in South Carolina that are not directly related to PL 96-272 requirements, or casework concerns that are not specifically addressed by Foster Care Review Board statute. Areas of Concern in this area deal with violations of public agency policy regarding service delivery to foster children and their families. These programmatic Areas of Concern reflect inadequacies in the funding and/or delivery of services to foster children. Although there are no federal or state sanctions for violations in this area, the long term impact on children and families can be extremely detrimental.

¹⁸ SC Code Section 20-7-1730

¹⁹ SC Code Section 20-7-1730

TABLE I
STATEWIDE AREAS OF CONCERN
January 1, 1991 - December 31, 1991

NUMBER OF REVIEWS FOR TIME PERIOD: 8828
 % TOTAL REVIEWS WITH AREAS OF CONCERN: 38.6

AREA OF CONCERN	FREQUENCY OF AREAS OF CONCERN	% OF STATE TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN
<u>CATEGORY I</u>		
NO TIMELY FCRB: CW ABSENT	15	0.3
ENTRY NOT REPORTED TIMELY	100	2.0
NO TIMELY JUDICIAL REVIEW	1088	22.2
NO CASE PLAN	156	3.2
NO CASE PLAN WITHIN 60 DAYS	367	7.5
INCOMPLETE CASE PLAN	751	15.3
NO TIME FRAME FOR PERM. PLAN	73	1.5
NO PROGRESS ON PERMANENT PLAN	<u>79</u>	<u>1.6</u>
Subtotal	2629	53.6
<u>CATEGORY II</u>		
NO TIMELY TEN DAY HEARING	42	0.9
NO TIMELY MERIT HEARING	218	4.5
NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER	385	7.9
NO COURT ORDER AT REVIEW	267	5.5
PARTIES NOT INVITED TO ATTEND	206	4.2
NO THREE WEEK NOTICE TO PARTIES	32	0.7
NO NON-CONCURRENCE SUBMITTED	186	3.8
NO PSYCHOLOGICALS AT REVIEW	24	0.5
ADOPTION COMPLAINT NOT FILED TIMELY	<u>42</u>	<u>0.9</u>
Subtotal	1402	28.9
<u>CATEGORY III</u>		
AGENCY POLICY/PROC. VIOLATION	832	17.0
INACCURATE INFORMATION AT REVIEW	4	0.1
OTHER	27	0.6
Subtotal	863	17.7
TOTALS:	4894	100.0

SC CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

1991 AREAS OF CONCERN DEFINITIONS

- 1. NO TIMELY TEN DAY HEARING**
SC Code Section 20-7-610

The Ten Day Hearing was not completed within the 10 day time frame stipulated by law or has not been held at all.
- 2. NO TIMELY MERIT**
SC Code Section 20-7-610
SC Code Section 20-7-736

Merit hearing was not completed within the 40 day time frame stipulated by law or has not been held at all.
- 3. NO TIMELY JUDICIAL REVIEW**
SC Code Section 20-7-766
PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(c)

Judicial review was not held within time frames stipulated by state or federal requirements or has not been held at all.
- 4. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER**

Agency is not in compliance with court order.
- 5. ADOPTION COMPLAINT NOT FILED TIMELY**
SC Code Section 20-7-1730

Adoptive placement agreements have been signed and the adoption complaint was not filed within the time frame stipulated by law or has not been filed at all.
- 6. ENTRY NOT REPORTED TIMELY**
FCRB Reg. 24-17(A)

Child's entry into foster care was not reported on time to schedule a timely review per statute.
- 7. NO TIMELY FCRB: WORKER ABSENT**
FCRB Reg. 24-23(B)

A review was not held because the caseworker (or designated agency personnel) was not present to make a presentation to the Review Board.
- 8. INTERESTED PARTIES NOT INVITED**
FCRB Reg. 24-9

Review was continued because interested parties specified by Review Board regulations were not invited to the review.
- 9. NO THREE WEEKS NOTICE**
FCRB Reg. 24-9

Interested parties invited to the review did not receive three weeks advance notice as required.
- 10. NO COURT ORDER AT REVIEW**
FCRB Reg. 24-15(P)
SC Family Court Rule 26(C)

A hearing was held at least 30 days prior to the Review Board meeting and copy of the court order was not available

11. NO PSYCHOLOGICAL AT REVIEW

*FCRB Reg. 24-15 (Q)(R)
(30 days our internal guideline)*

A psychological evaluation was completed at least 30 days prior to review and a copy of this report was not available for the Review Board as per regulation.

12. NO NON-CONCURRENCE SUBMITTED

*FCRB Reg. 24-35
SC Code Section 20-7-2391*

Agency did not submit a written non-concurrence within 21 days of receipt of the preview Review Board recommendation as per statute.

13. NO CASE PLAN

*PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(1)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(A)*

A case plan was not presented to the Review Board at the time of the review, or the time frames on the most recent case plan document have expired. (If a case plan is presented, but a copy is not provided to the Review Board at the time of the review, this is cited as a policy and procedure violation.)

14. INCOMPLETE CASE PLAN

*PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(1)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(A)&(B)
42 U.S.C. 675(1)*

Treatment objectives were not defined in the case plan; the case plan was not signed by the parent(s) and there was no indication as to why that was not possible; or other parts of the 3016 Case Plan document were incomplete.

15. NO CASE PLAN WITHIN 60 DAYS

*DSS Directive Memo D88-210
PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(1)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(A)*

A case plan was not initiated with the parent(s) within the first 60 days of placement as per agency policy and federal guidelines.

16. NO TIME FRAME

*PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(B)*

A time frame for completion of the permanent plan was not stated on the case plan document.

17. POLICY/PROCEDURE VIOLATION

Violations of DSS policies/procedures as outlined in agency policy manuals were documented during the case review.

18. NO PROGRESS PERMANENT PLAN

PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(B)

No progress was made to achieve permanent plan within the past six months.

19. INACCURATE INFORMATION AT REVIEW

Information is provided after the review which contradicts information presented during the review.

20. OTHER

Case specific concerns that do not fall into above categories. These usually apply to case work issues (i.e., sibling remaining in home determined to be at risk, needs of foster child not being met, foster child not enrolled in school for unreasonable period of time).

TABLE II
SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
AREAS OF CONCERN
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1990-1991

COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC 1990	% Reviews w/AOC 1991	# OF Reviews 1990	# OF Reviews 1991	COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC 1990	% Reviews w/AOC 1991	# OF Reviews 1990	# OF Reviews 1991
ABBEVILLE	42.0%	12.1%	69	66	GREENWOOD	26.9%	11.9%	52	42
AIKEN	57.8%	59.2%	410	486	HAMPTON	35.1%	24.2%	37	66
ALLENDALE	77.1%	53.3%	48	60	HORRY	39.4%	68.5%	363	410
ANDERSON	16.5%	20.4%	322	318	JASPER	58.1%	25.8%	43	31
BAMBERG	68.3%	28.0%	41	50	KERSHAW	23.8%	29.5%	63	61
BARNWELL	54.5%	14.3%	44	49	LANCASTER	21.5%	15.5%	144	110
BEAUFORT	77.4%	59.1%	199	203	LAURENS	22.6%	43.5%	53	62
BERKELEY	67.1%	68.2%	210	217	LEE	42.9%	20.0%	35	35
CALHOUN	25.8%	44.8%	31	29	LEXINGTON	21.9%	29.9%	146	117
CHARLESTON	54.7%	58.5%	569	571	MARION	36.6%	13.1%	112	153
CHEROKEE	18.9%	32.5%	106	120	MARLBORO	25.7%	12.5%	171	152
CHESTER	27.5%	16.8%	102	107	MCCORMICK	22.2%	35.7%	45	42
CHESTERFIELD	34.5%	8.0%	84	75	NEWBERRY	50.0%	78.3%	14	23
CLARENDON	29.1%	43.8%	110	130	OCONEE	51.0%	34.0%	153	141
COLLETON	26.1%	23.2%	69	69	ORANGEBURG	10.3%	12.2%	184	237
DARLINGTON	17.6%	35.8%	125	95	PICKENS	65.2%	53.5%	89	86
DILLON	41.7%	23.2%	72	69	RICHLAND	56.9%	43.2%	925	916
DORCHESTER	55.4%	47.9%	112	119	SALUDA	60.4%	52.0%	134	150
EDGEFIELD	85.7%	70.0%	42	40	SPARTANBURG	33.9%	44.6%	401	442
FAIRFIELD	17.9%	32.3%	56	65	SUMTER	35.4%	40.6%	158	192
FLORENCE	71.8%	60.5%	280	314	UNION	25.0%	38.9%	16	18
GEORGETOWN	17.1%	40.0%	105	110	WILLIAMSBURG	46.4%	53.8%	69	65
GREENVILLE	33.9%	46.0%	407	450	YORK	29.0%	53.4%	186	221

AREA ADOPTIONS

Area Adopt I	59.2%	41.3%	103	80	Area Adopt IV	40.2%	23.1%	82	52
Area Adopt II	50%	30.0%	44	50	Area Adopt V	46.8%	44.6%	94	74
Area Adopt III	31.2%	12.5%	53	56	Area Adopt VI	21.8%	16.7%	55	60

* Areas of Concern are defined as violations of law or agency policy

TABLE III
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1991 - DECEMBER 31, 1991

	AREA I	AREA II	AREA III	AREA IV	AREA V	AREA VI	ABBEVILLE	AIKEN	ALLEDALE	ANDERSON
Category I										
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Entry not Reported Timely	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	5	1	-
No Timely Judicial Review	12	4	2	8	12	5	-	92	8	31
No Case Plan	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	1	2	2
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	4	2
Incomplete Case Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	73	11	8
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	5	1	1
No Progress on Permanent Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	3	-
Sub - Total	14	6	3	8	17	8	5	216	30	44
Category II										
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
No Timely Merit	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	25	2	-
Non-Compliance with Court Order	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	43	6	5
No Court Order at Review	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	20	-	7
Interested Parties Not Invited	1	1	-	1	3	-	3	17	2	-
No Three Week Notice to Parties	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
No Non-Concurrence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	10
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	14	6	2	2	15	1	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total	17	8	4	4	20	1	3	118	11	22
Category III										
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	9	2	-	-	3	1	-	106	11	6
Incorrect Info at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Sub-Total	9	2	-	-	3	1	-	111	11	6
Totals:										
Areas of Concern	40	16	7	12	40	10	8	445	52	72
Number of Children*	57	41	48	46	57	50	38	258	30	191
Reviews of Children**	80	50	56	52	74	60	66	468	60	318
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	33	15	7	12	33	10	8	277	32	65
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	41.3	30.0	12.5	23.1	44.6	16.7	12.1	59.2	53.3	20.4

* Indicates an unduplicated count of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

** Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

TABLE III
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1991 - DECEMBER 31, 1991

	BAMBERG	BARNWELL	BEAUFORT	BERKELEY	CALHOUN	CHARLESTON	CHEROKEE	CHESTER	CHESTERFIELD	CLARENDON	COLLETON
Category I											
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Entry not Reported Timely	-	-	4	3	-	3	-	5	1	1	-
No Timely Judicial Review	4	-	27	39	2	149	2	3	-	21	3
No Case Plan	-	-	10	24	-	13	4	-	1	-	-
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	3	-	9	28	-	22	16	4	-	5	-
Incomplete Case Plan	3	3	37	57	3	48	10	-	-	13	1
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	-	-	-	3	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
No Progress on Permanent Plan	-	-	9	5	-	23	-	1	-	-	-
Sub - Total	10	3	96	159	5	263	32	14	2	40	4
Category II											
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	-	-	-	3	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
No Timely Merit	1	-	8	15	-	37	4	-	-	1	-
Non-Compliance with Court Order	-	-	25	27	1	42	2	2	-	18	4
No Court Order at Review	-	1	7	8	2	42	4	4	-	-	2
Interested Parties Not Invited	3	-	4	5	-	13	-	-	1	-	1
No Three Week Notice to Parties	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Non-Concurrence	-	-	16	5	-	22	6	-	-	2	3
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total	4	1	64	71	3	172	18	6	1	21	10
Category III											
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	4	5	52	39	8	71	12	-	4	3	4
Incorrect Info at Review	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total	4	5	52	40	8	75	12	-	4	3	4
Totals:											
Areas of Concern	18	9	212	270	16	510	62	20	7	64	18
Number of Children*	27	24	111	130	16	331	70	57	48	77	40
Reviews of Children**	50	49	203	217	29	571	120	107	75	130	69
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	14	7	120	148	13	334	39	15	6	51	16
% Reviews w/ Areas of Concern	28.0	14.3	59.1	68.2	44.8	58.5	32.5	16.8	8.0	43.8	23.2

* Indicates an unduplicated count of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

** Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

TABLE III
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1991 - DECEMBER 31, 1991

	DARLINGTON	DILLON	DORCHESTER	EDGEFIELD	FAIRFIELD	FLORENCE	GEORGETOWN	GREENVILLE	GREENWOOD	HAMPTON	HORRY	JASPER
Category I												
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Entry not Reported Timely	-	-	1	-	-	20	-	8	-	-	6	-
No Timely Judicial Review	4	5	17	6	2	92	14	47	2	3	76	-
No Case Plan	7	-	1	1	-	-	-	25	-	-	29	-
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	-	-	2	-	5	36	3	34	-	-	35	-
Incomplete Case Plan	9	4	16	5	-	46	17	70	3	5	73	4
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	6	-	-	-	-
No Progress on Permanent Plan	1	-	-	-	1	4	-	1	-	3	4	1
Sub - Total	21	9	37	12	8	219	34	192	5	11	223	5
Category II												
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Timely Merit	1	3	2	-	-	7	3	5	-	-	53	-
Non-Compliance with Court Order	7	3	4	-	-	4	-	32	-	2	34	-
No Court Order at Review	1	2	9	3	9	3	-	23	-	1	29	1
Interested Parties Not Invited	-	2	5	2	1	10	2	9	-	-	32	1
No Three Week Notice to Parties	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	3	-	-	-	-
No Non-Concurrence	1	-	2	-	2	-	5	3	-	3	16	-
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	2
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total	10	10	24	5	12	39	10	78	-	6	165	4
Category III												
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	9	-	13	15	9	23	6	31	-	11	71	5
Incorrect Info at Review	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	-
Sub-Total	10	-	13	17	9	23	6	32	-	11	77	5
Totals:												
Areas of Concern	41	19	74	34	29	281	50	302	5	28	465	14
Number of Children*	59	45	70	23	37	179	65	279	25	37	240	20
Reviews of Children**	95	69	119	40	65	314	110	450	42	66	410	31
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	34	16	57	28	21	190	45	207	5	16	281	8
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	35.8	23.2	47.9	70.0	32.3	60.5	40.9	46.0	11.9	24.2	68.5	25.8

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TABLE III
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1991 - DECEMBER 31, 1991

	KERSHAW	LANCASTER	LAURENS	LEE	LEXINGTON	MARION	MARLBORO	McCORMICK	NEWBERRY	OCONEE	ORANGEBURG
Category I											
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Entry not Reported Timely	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
No Timely Judicial Review	3	7	5	-	6	5	-	1	10	23	3
No Case Plan	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	9	-	3	-
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	2	-	2	-	7	6	1	-	2	4	-
Incomplete Case Plan	6	-	10	4	4	-	6	-	2	2	8
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	1	-	1	-	4	4	-	-	1	-	1
No Progress on Permanent Plan	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub - Total	12	8	18	4	26	16	7	10	17	33	12
Category II											
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
No Timely Merit	-	3	2	-	-	-	3	2	-	4	-
Non-Compliance with Court Order	-	-	4	-	6	-	4	3	-	1	2
No Court Order at Review	7	3	1	-	2	1	1	-	1	4	1
Interested Parties Not Invited	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	1	3	-
No Three Week Notice to Parties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
No Non-Concurrence	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	6	3
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total	7	6	8	1	14	2	9	6	4	18	8
Category III											
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	2	3	9	2	4	4	2	2	-	6	9
Incorrect Info at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total	2	3	9	2	4	4	5	2	-	6	9
Totals:											
Areas of Concern	21	17	35	7	44	22	21	18	21	57	29
Number of Children*	37	70	36	20	69	88	93	23	10	79	142
Reviews of Children**	61	110	62	35	117	153	152	42	23	141	237
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	18	17	27	7	35	20	19	15	18	48	29
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	29.5	15.5	43.5	20.0	29.9	13.1	12.5	35.7	78.3	34.0	12.2

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** Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

TABLE III
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1991 - DECEMBER 31, 1991

	PICKENS	RICHLAND	SALUDA	SPARTANBURG	SUMTER	UNION	WILLIAMSBURG	YORK	BIRTH PARENT	RELATIVE	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
Category I												
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	15
Entry not Reported Timely	-	20	-	2	-	-	3	12	2	-	-	100
No Timely Judicial Review	14	198	14	41	21	3	9	33	-	-	-	1088
No Case Plan	1	3	5	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	156
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	1	27	6	35	8	-	4	27	-	-	-	367
Incomplete Case Plan	13	45	15	67	-	2	20	23	-	-	-	751
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	1	-	3	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73
No Progress on Permanent Plan	1	1	3	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	79
Sub - Total	33	294	46	161	32	6	36	97	6	-	-	2629
Category II												
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	-	5	1	1	2	-	3	3	-	-	-	42
No Timely Merit	2	9	1	1	11	-	7	5	-	-	-	218
Non-Compliance with Court Order	6	36	8	19	8	1	8	16	-	-	-	385
No Court Order at Review	5	35	4	3	3	-	2	13	-	-	-	267
Interested Parties Not Invited	8	14	10	24	9	-	-	2	9	-	-	206
No Three Week Notice to Parties	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	32
No Non-Concurrence	1	35	5	9	7	1	-	11	1	-	-	186
No Psychologicals at Review	-	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	24
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Sub-Total	22	138	30	58	41	2	20	52	13	1	-	1402
Category III												
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	7	90	25	49	24	2	4	42	10	3	-	832
Incorrect Info at Review	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Other	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	27
Sub-Total	8	94	26	49	24	2	4	42	12	3	-	863
Totals:												
Areas of Concern	63	526	102	268	97	10	60	191	31	4	-	4894
Number of Children*	54	554	84	257	112	10	38	146	429	38	1	5216
Reviews of Children**	86	916	150	442	192	18	65	221	841	48	1	8828
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	46	396	78	197	78	7	35	118	28	4	-	3412
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	53.5	43.2	52.0	44.6	40.6	38.9	53.8	53.4	3.4	8.4	-	38.68

* Indicates an unduplicated count of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

** Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

Delays to Permanence

During 1991 the Foster Care Review Board tracked specific systemic barriers that delay permanence for children. The Delay to Permanence category is defined as the local Board's opinion as to whether there were unnecessary delays in implementation of the permanent plan for the child during the six months prior to the Board's review of the child's case.

Effective January 1, 1991, the Review Board tracked data on Delays to Permanence in four subcategories: Permanency Planning, Adoption, Legal and Third Party. This subdivision of the Delay to Permanence data was implemented in cooperation with the Department of Social Services to present systemic delays in a child's case in a fair and equitable manner.

Statewide statistical data tracked for each of these categories is provided in Table IV. Table V provides totals and percentages by county or area adoption office in each delay category.

TABLE IV
STATEWIDE DELAYS TO PERMANENCE
January 1, 1991 - December 31, 1991

NUMBER OF REVIEWS FOR TIME PERIOD: 8828

% TOTAL REVIEWS WITH DELAYS TO PERMANENCE: 17.6

<u>DELAYS TO PERMANENCE</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>% OF STATE TOTAL DELAYS TO PERMANENCE</u>
PERMANENCY PLANNING	842	51.3
THIRD PARTY	449	27.4
LEGAL	187	11.4
ADOPTION	<u>162</u>	<u>9.9</u>
TOTAL	1640	100.0

TABLE V
DELAYS TO PERMANENCE BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1991 - DECEMBER 31, 1991

LOCATION	PERMANENCY PLANNING DELAYS	THIRD PARTY DELAYS	LEGAL DELAYS	ADOPTION DELAYS	TOTAL DELAYS	TOTAL REVIEWS	%REVIEWS W/DELAYS
AREA I	-	9	2	4	15	80	17.5
AREA II	-	10	1	2	13	50	26.0
AREA III	-	1	2	-	3	56	5.4
AREA IV	-	5	1	-	6	52	11.5
AREA V	-	12	-	8	20	74	25.7
AREA VI	1	4	-	-	5	60	8.3
ABBEVILLE	5	3	-	-	8	66	12.1
AIKEN	83	2	3	14	102	468	20.5
ALLENDALE	15	-	2	1	18	60	28.3
ANDERSON	7	25	17	7	56	318	16.0
BAMBERG	3	2	1	1	7	50	14.0
BARNWELL	8	-	1	7	16	49	26.5
BEAUFORT	48	4	-	-	52	203	25.6
BERKELEY	49	9	15	7	80	217	33.2
CALHOUN	3	1	-	-	4	29	13.8
CHARLESTON	79	45	26	3	153	571	25.2
CHEROKEE	9	4	5	2	20	120	15.8
CHESTER	-	6	-	3	9	107	8.4
CHESTERFIELD	4	2	-	-	6	75	8.0
CLARENDON	11	15	-	2	28	130	20.8
COLLETON	5	6	-	-	11	69	15.9
DARLINGTON	19	5	6	-	30	95	28.4
DILLON	-	3	1	-	4	69	5.8
DORCHESTER	15	6	-	-	21	119	17.6
EDGEFIELD	11	2	-	-	13	40	32.5
FAIRFIELD	10	5	-	6	21	65	24.6

TABLE V
DELAYS TO PERMANENCE BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1991 - DECEMBER 31, 1991

LOCATION	PERMANENCY PLANNING DELAYS	THIRD PARTY DELAYS	LEGAL DELAYS	ADOPTION DELAYS	TOTAL DELAYS	TOTAL REVIEWS	%REVIEWS W/DELAYS
FLORENCE	41	11	2	-	54	314	17.5
GEORGETOWN	8	7	-	-	15	110	13.6
GREENVILLE	48	20	12	5	85	450	17.8
GREENWOOD	1	3	-	-	4	42	9.5
HAMPTON	7	2	-	-	9	66	13.6
HORRY	75	16	18	1	110	410	25.1
JASPER	3	4	1	-	8	31	22.6
KERSHAW	2	3	2	5	12	61	19.7
LANCASTER	3	3	-	-	6	110	5.5
LAURENS	5	1	3	-	9	62	14.5
LEE	6	7	-	3	16	35	45.7
LEXINGTON	4	5	-	2	11	117	8.5
MARION	4	14	-	-	18	153	10.5
MARLBORO	-	10	3	-	13	152	8.6
MCCORMICK	5	3	-	-	8	42	19.0
NEWBERRY	4	-	-	-	4	23	17.4
OCONEE	10	1	1	-	12	141	8.5
ORANGEBURG	6	7	5	16	34	237	13.5
PICKENS	8	5	1	-	14	86	16.3
RICHLAND	98	65	39	32	234	916	23.7
SALUDA	30	14	2	9	55	150	34.0
SPARTANBURG	40	29	4	16	89	442	19.9
SUMTER	11	11	6	5	33	192	17.2
UNION	1	-	-	-	1	18	5.6
WILLIAMSBURG	6	7	-	-	13	65	20.0
YORK	29	11	3	1	44	221	17.6

TABLE VI
AREAS OF CONCERN AND DELAYS TO PERMANENCE
1991 COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

January 1, 1991 - December 31, 1991

TOTAL REVIEWS FOR TIME PERIOD: 8828
 PERCENTAGE OF REVIEWS WITH AREAS OF CONCERN: 38.6
 PERCENTAGE OF REVIEWS WITH DELAYS TO PERMANENCE: 17.6
 TOTAL CHILDREN REVIEWED: 5216

COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC	% Reviews w/DTP	# OF REVIEWS	COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC	% Reviews w/DTP	# OF REVIEWS
ABBEVILLE	12.1%	12.1%	66	GREENWOOD	11.9%	9.5%	42
AIKEN	59.2%	20.5%	468	HAMPTON	24.2%	13.6%	66
ALLENDALE	53.3%	28.3%	60	HORRY	68.5%	25.1%	410
ANDERSON	20.4%	16.0%	318	JASPER	25.8%	22.6%	31
BAMBERG	28.0%	14.0%	50	KERSHAW	29.5%	19.7%	61
BARNWELL	14.3%	26.5%	49	LANCASTER	15.5%	5.5%	110
BEAUFORT	59.1%	25.6%	203	LAURENS	43.5%	14.5%	62
BERKELEY	68.2%	33.2%	217	LEE	20.0%	45.7%	35
CALHOUN	44.8%	13.8%	29	LEXINGTON	29.9%	8.5%	117
CHARLESTON	58.5%	25.2%	571	MARION	13.1%	10.5%	153
CHEROKEE	32.5%	15.8%	120	MARLBORO	12.5%	8.6%	152
CHESTER	16.8%	8.4%	107	MCCORMICK	35.7%	19.0%	42
CHESTERFIELD	8.0%	8.0%	75	NEWBERRY	78.3%	17.4%	23
CLARENDON	43.8%	20.8%	130	OCONEE	34.0%	8.5%	141
COLLETON	23.2%	15.9%	69	ORANGEBURG	12.2%	13.5%	237
DARLINGTON	35.8%	28.4%	95	PICKENS	53.5%	16.3%	86
DILLON	23.2%	5.8%	69	RICHLAND	43.2%	23.7%	916
DORCHESTER	47.9%	17.6%	119	SALUDA	52.0%	34.0%	150
EDGEFIELD	70.0%	32.5%	40	SPARTANBURG	44.6%	19.9%	442
FAIRFIELD	32.3%	24.6%	65	SUMTER	40.6%	17.2%	192
FLORENCE	60.5%	17.5%	314	UNION	38.9%	5.6%	18
GEORGETOWN	40.9%	13.6%	110	WILLIAMSBURG	53.8%	20.0%	65
GREENVILLE	46.0%	17.8%	450	YORK	53.4%	17.6%	221
AREA ADOPTIONS							
Area Adoption I	41.3%	17.5%	80	Area Adoption IV	23.1%	11.5%	52
Area Adoption II	30.0%	26.0%	50	Area Adoption V	44.6%	25.7%	74
Area Adoption III	12.5%	5.4%	56	Area Adoption VI	16.7%	8.3%	60

* Areas of Concern are defined as violations of law or agency policy

** Delays to Permanence are defined as systemic delays to completion of a child's permanent plan noted by the local Review Board. The specific reason for the delay is tracked statistically as one of four categories: Permanency Planning, Adoption, Legal or Third Party.

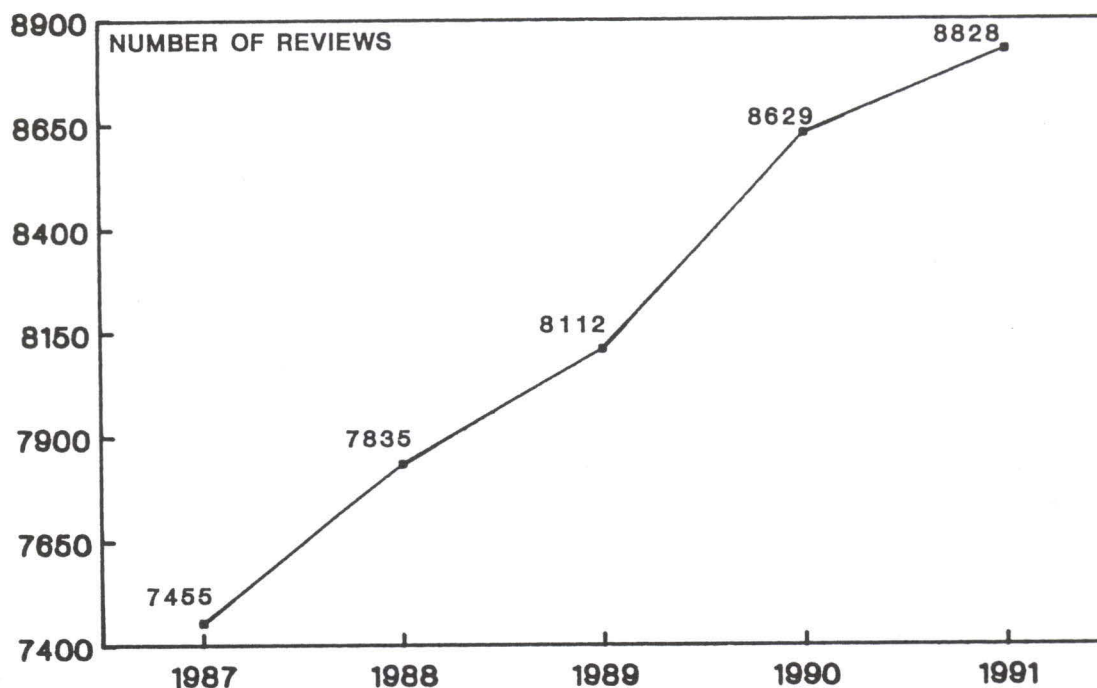
1991 DEMOGRAPHIC AND COMPARATIVE DATA ON THE FOSTER CARE POPULATION AND REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System implemented an in-house computer information system in 1987. Each year changes and revisions are made, as necessary, in data collection methods in order to enhance the system and to provide better utilization of data. Questions related to data comparison should be referred to the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

How many reviews are conducted by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System each year?

The Review Board conducted a total of 8828 reviews in 1991 on a total of 5216 children. This is a four percent (4%) increase over the number of reviews conducted by the Review Board in 1990 and an eighteen percent (18%) increase over the number of reviews conducted in 1987. Table A illustrates the increase in the number of reviews conducted by the Review Board since 1987.

TABLE A
REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY FCRB 1987 - 1991



The number of individual reviews conducted each month in 1991 by each local Review Board is depicted in Table B.

TABLE B

1991 REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY LOCAL REVIEW BOARDS

BOARD	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
1A	11	21	17	16	23	16	12	22	14	24	21	21	218
1B	16	22	29	7	10	19	13	21	20	10	7	18	192
2A	21	22	21	23	26	19	30	20	18	23	23	19	265
2B	19	18	15	19	25	15	20	25	24	22	17	14	233
3A	29	26	25	9	12	-	19	36	24	8	21	-	209
3B	27	14	30	19	17	17	24	13	25	17	23	19	245
4A	16	17	24	18	30	10	14	14	17	17	30	10	217
4B	-	24	19	16	15	15	-	21	21	12	17	14	174
5A	45	22	33	-	27	26	9	36	30	26	21	-	275
5B	18	20	28	28	30	17	24	24	21	32	28	19	289
5C	20	27	29	31	24	29	30	22	18	41	17	35	323
5D	22	32	30	33	22	22	24	39	23	28	17	22	314
5E	-	19	11	13	16	9	-	19	20	15	18	10	150
6A	30	26	28	21	20	18	26	31	34	29	16	22	301
7A	23	22	27	26	22	16	21	31	24	27	29	16	284
7B	-	40	18	32	33	31	23	29	22	28	21	26	303
8A	-	44	43	-	35	25	-	49	38	35	23	-	292
8B	12	28	19	16	27	-	14	19	12	15	17	-	179
9A	20	15	33	24	20	16	18	18	36	33	23	15	271
9B	23	24	22	19	31	35	29	13	24	16	28	31	295
9C	24	24	22	27	23	25	26	28	18	40	30	27	314
10A	27	31	25	26	36	21	26	23	27	26	43	-	311
10B	32	22	26	19	21	20	30	21	21	19	18	16	265
11A	22	27	23	26	22	21	27	24	24	19	18	12	265
11B	19	22	35	27	12	14	10	18	25	17	16	-	215
12A	14	17	28	45	20	35	26	23	28	31	20	-	287
12B	16	-	25	-	25	-	30	-	24	-	21	33	174
13A	19	7	16	6	19	12	17	13	10	18	16	11	164
13B	22	19	21	26	23	21	15	17	26	22	26	14	252
13C	10	23	30	22	27	19	13	26	23	28	34	21	276
14A	26	22	29	11	19	21	11	24	18	19	24	24	248
14B	22	19	22	18	17	23	13	12	16	21	15	-	198
15A	20	25	29	19	8	22	17	33	23	23	18	25	262
15B	31	38	22	24	18	22	28	24	34	26	22	23	312
16A	26	22	23	22	21	17	25	18	22	17	17	26	256
TOTALS:	682	801	877	688	776	648	664	806	804	784	755	543	8828

What are Kids Count and Kid's Caucus?

South Carolina Kids Count is a project designed to strengthen state and local responses to the needs of children and families. The "Kids Count Report Cards" provide a comprehensive overview of children's birth conditions, health, school performance, welfare and problems associated with adolescence. South Carolina was one of the first eight states to receive a Kids Count grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The program is directed by the South Carolina Budget and Control Board and other partners in the Kids Count project include the Joint Legislative Committee on Children, the Office of the Governor, Children's Trust Fund of South Carolina, Columbia Urban League, United Way of South Carolina and the Alliance for Carolina's Children.

Kid's Caucus was an idea that originated with the Foster Care Review Board and grew into a statewide event for children through the support of some fifteen public and private agencies and organizations. Volunteers serving on policy boards dealing with children's issues from across the state met on February 15, 1992 for a conference at the Columbia Marriott. Conference participants learned a community organization model designed to evaluate issues and to develop responsive community based programs. Participants then met in regional groups where they examined Kids Count data to identify critical problems confronting children and families. Efforts continue to facilitate on-going regional discussions to build interagency communication and to forge public and private partnerships that will improve services to children and families.

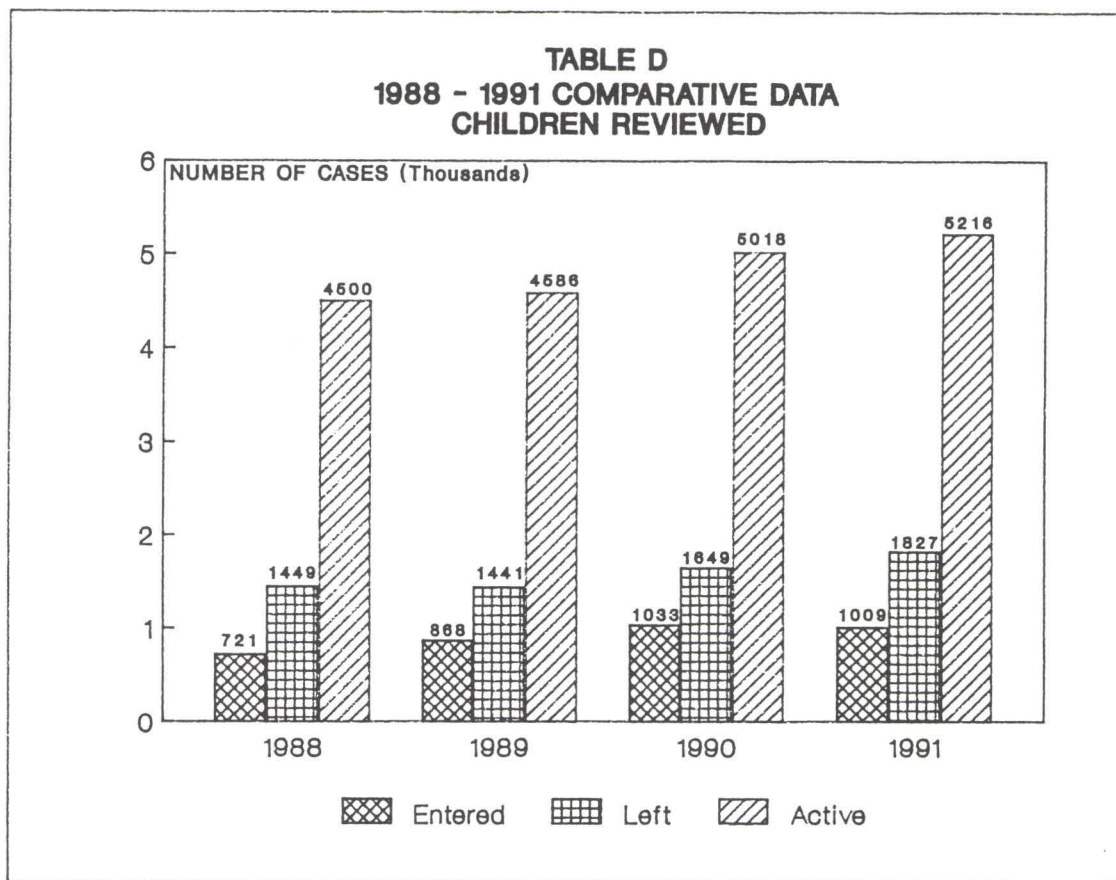
Information presented in the following table provides a general overview of children monitored by the Review Board System during 1991. This table compares selected indicators by age using the same age groupings as those used in the Kids Count data.

TABLE C

COMPARISON OF SELECTED INDICATORS BY AGE 1991																							
AGE	ENTERING FOSTER CARE					LEAVING FOSTER CARE					PLACEMENT REASON								CLOSING REASON				
	RACE			SEX		RACE			SEX		NEGLECT	DEPENDENCY	ABUSE	VOLUNTARY	ABANDONMENT	CONSENT & WAIVER	JUVENILE OFFENSE	PARENT	ADOPTION	EMANCIPATION	NON-PARENT	OTHER	
	BLACK	WHITE	OTHER	MALE	FEMALE	BLACK	WHITE	OTHER	MALE	FEMALE													
One or less	60%	34%	6%	52%	48%	59%	32%	9%	53%	47%	44%	12%	26%	6%	2%	10%	—	26%	49%	—	23%	2%
2 - 5	64%	35%	1%	49%	51%	53%	42%	5%	52%	48%	58%	9%	29%	3%	1%	—	—	50%	28%	—%	21%	1%
6 - 9	51%	47%	2%	43%	57%	54%	44%	2%	48%	52%	43%	8%	33%	15%	1%	—	—	55%	21%	—	23%	1%
10 - 15	41%	58%	1%	49%	51%	38%	61%	1%	55%	45%	32%	8%	31%	22%	1%	—	6%	75%	9%	1%	----	15%	-
16 - 21	45%	55%	-%	34%	66%	43%	54%	3%	45%	55%	36%	13%	28%	9%	6%	—	8%	26%	1%	66%	----	7%	<1%
TOTAL ENTERING FOSTER CARE 1991 = 1009																							
TOTAL LEAVING FOSTER CARE 1991 = 1827																							

Who are the children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board?

Table D compares the number of children entering, leaving and remaining active in the system from 1988 to 1991. Data for 1991 indicates a slight decline in the number of children entering the system and an increase in the number of children leaving the system. The total number of children who are active in the system during the year has increased by sixteen percent (16%) since 1988.



Statistical Comparison by Age

Tables E, F, G, H and I compare the number of children who entered the Review Board System, the number who left the system, and the number of children who remained active in the Review Board System during 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991.

Table E shows a one hundred and eleven percent (111%) increase in the number of infants who entered the Review Board system in 1991 compared to 1988 and a twelve percent (12%) increase in the number of infants entering the Review Board System in 1991 compared to 1990. Data presented for children ages 2-5 in Table F, children ages 6-9 in Table G and children ages 10-15 in Table H show a gradual increase in each category. Data presented in Table I indicates a decrease in each category for children ages 16 to 21 over the previous three years; however, 1991 shows increasing numbers in each category.

TABLE E
COMPARISON BY AGE GROUP
1 YEAR OLD OR LESS

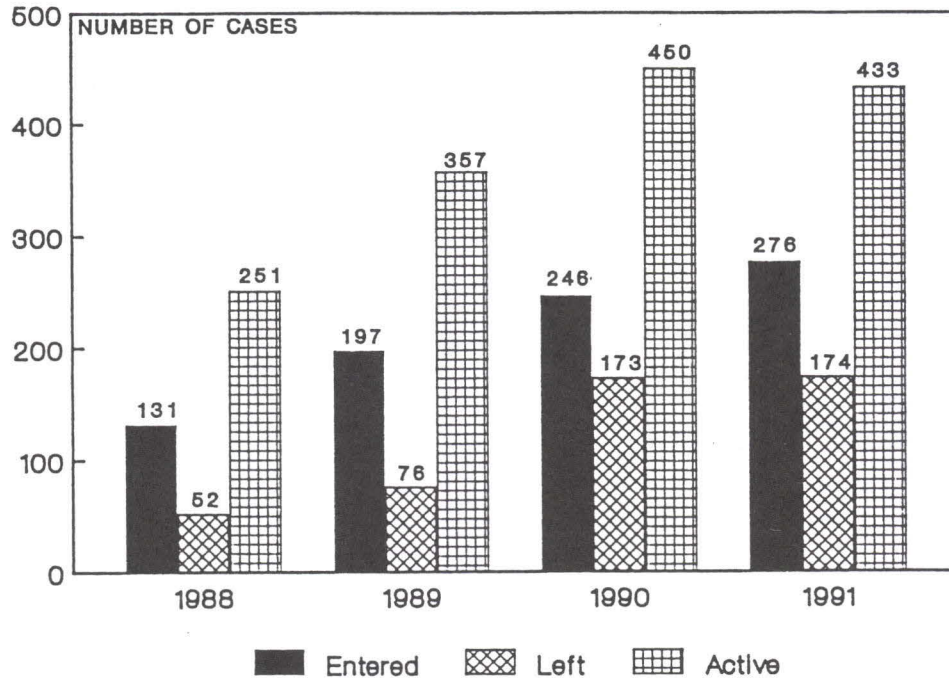


TABLE F
COMPARISON BY AGE GROUP
2 TO 5 YEAR OLDS

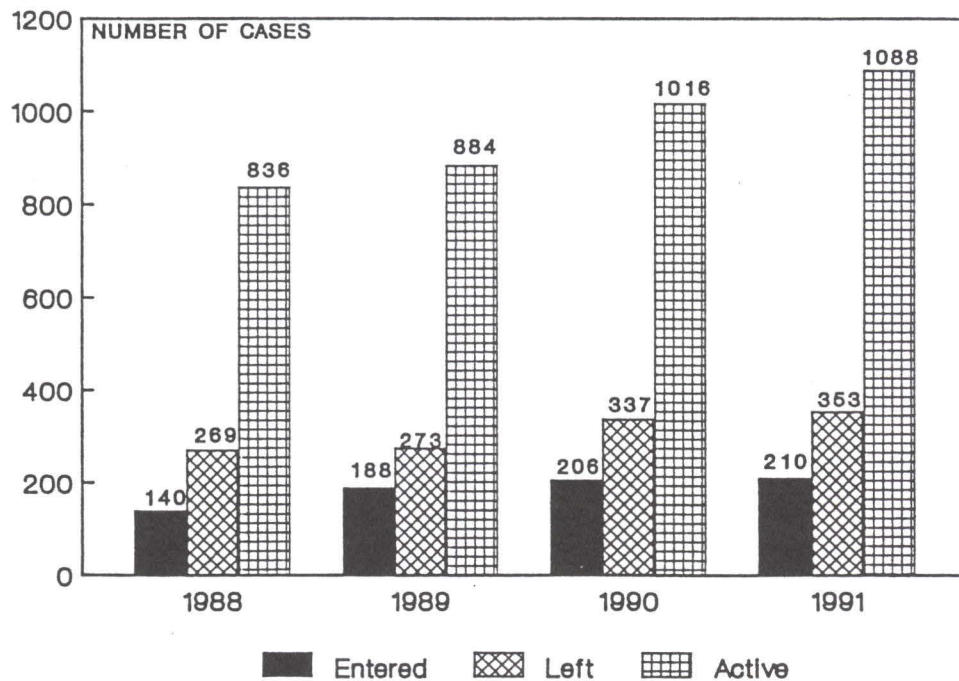


TABLE G
COMPARISON BY AGE GROUP
6 TO 9 YEAR OLDS

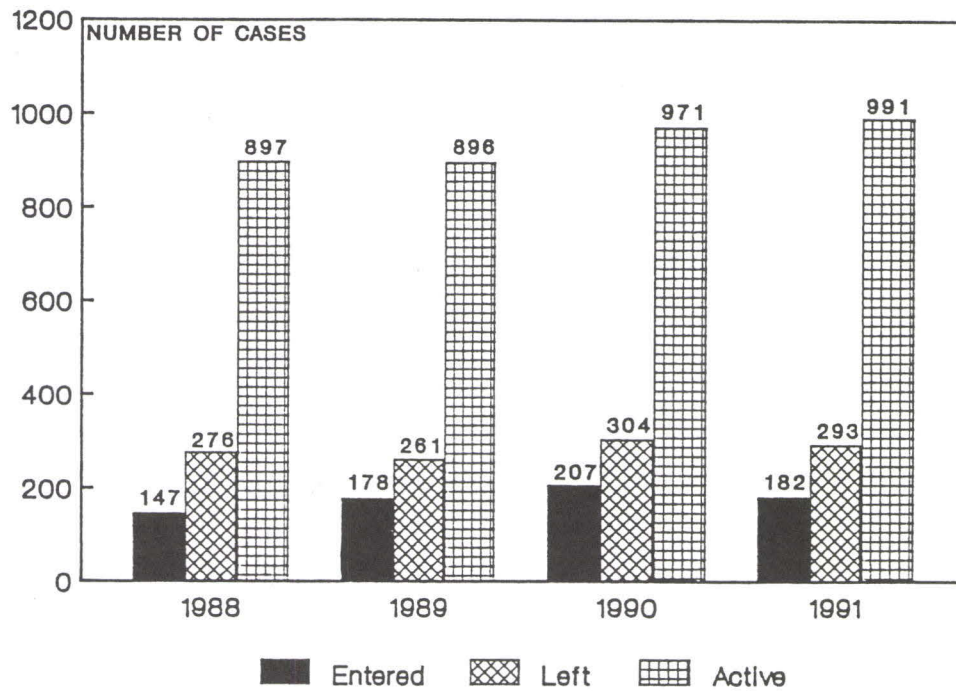


TABLE H
COMPARISON BY AGE GROUP
10 TO 15 YEAR OLDS

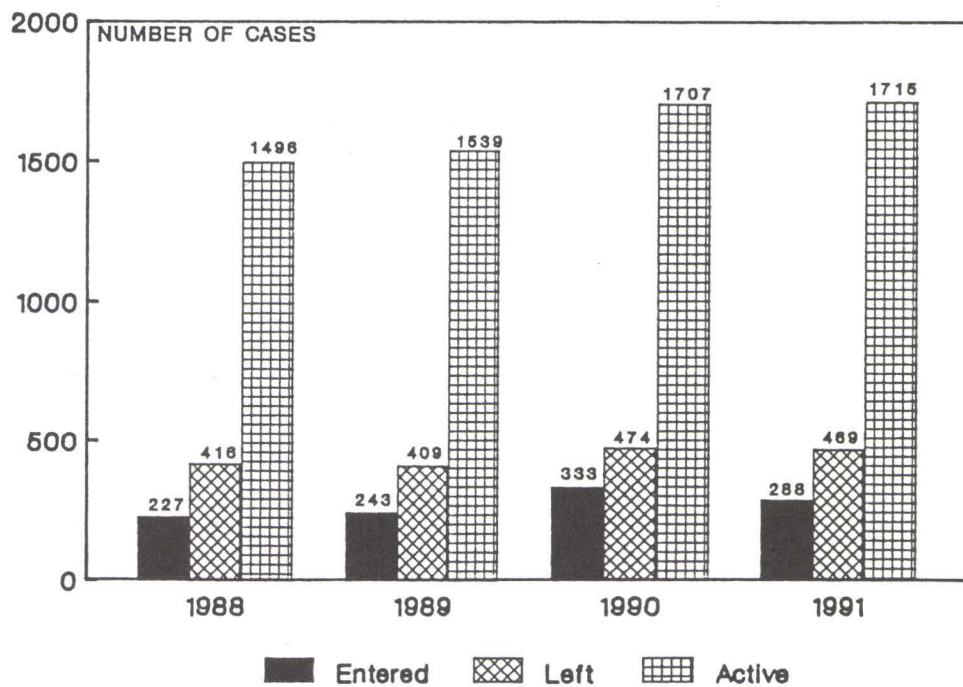
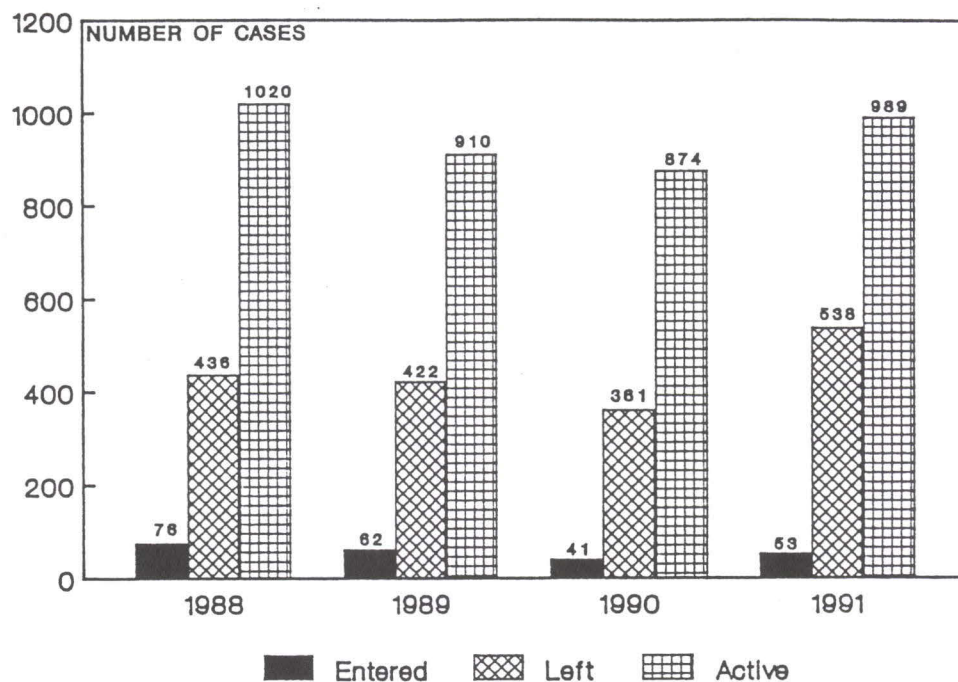


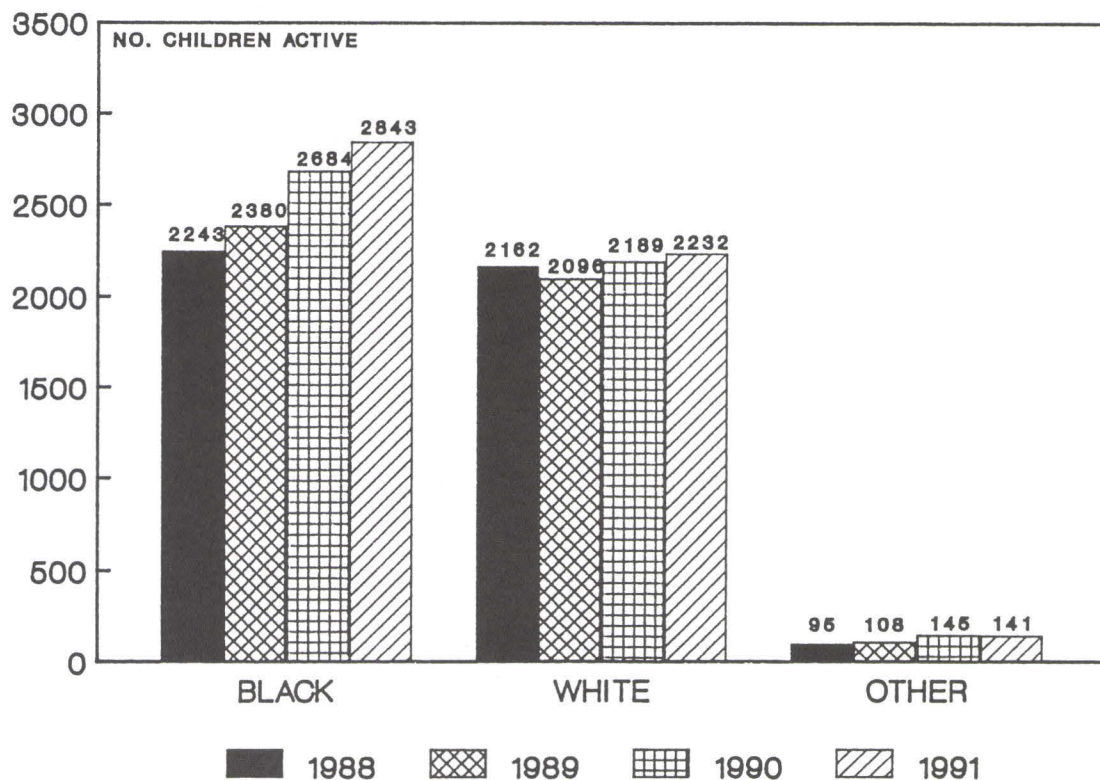
TABLE I
COMPARISON BY AGE GROUP
10 TO 15 YEAR OLDS



Statistical Comparison by Race

Table J depicts the race of children who were reviewed and remained active during 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. These statistics show a six percent (6%) increase in the number of black children who remain active in the system when comparing 1990 and 1991 data. Prior to 1989, the racial balance of the foster care population was evenly balanced between black and/or minority children in care and white children in care. The continuing increase in the minority foster care population as compared to the white foster care population in South Carolina indicates a significant demographic trend. Review Board data also indicates that more black and minority race children enter the foster care system than white children; however, they leave foster care by equal percentages.

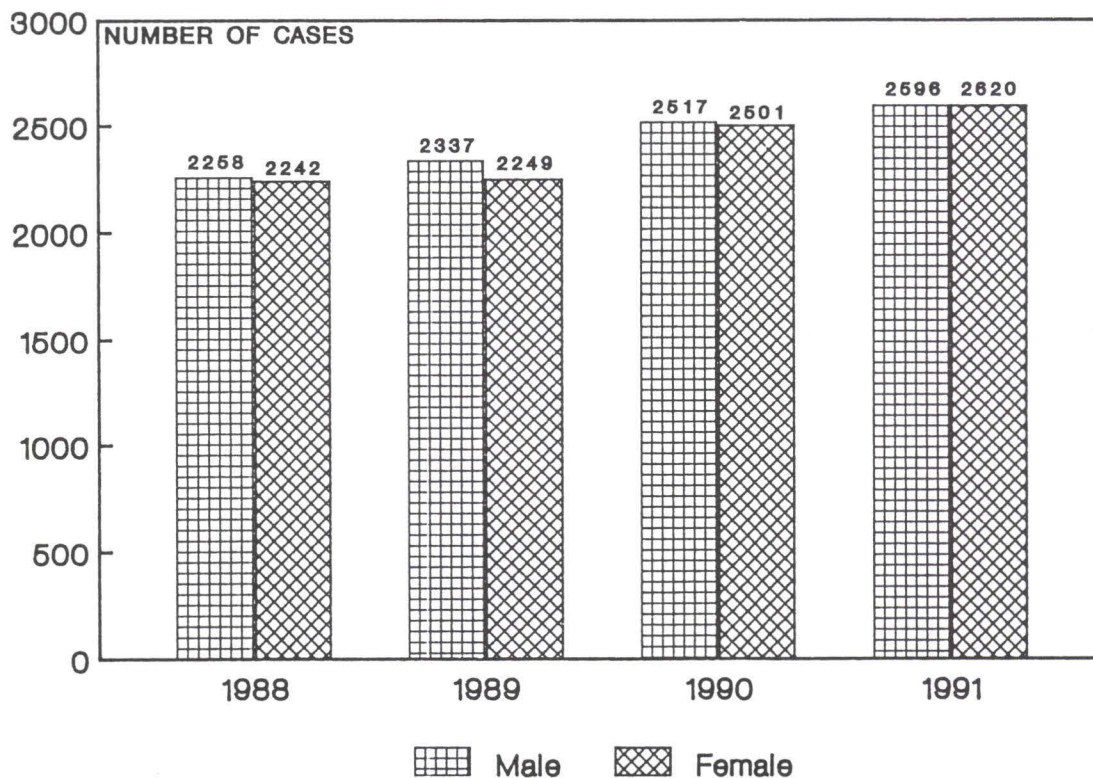
TABLE J
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS BY RACE
ACTIVE CASES REVIEWED



Statistical Comparison by Sex

Table K depicts the sex of children who were reviewed and remained active during 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. Data presented in Table K indicates that, as in previous years, the balance is fairly even between males and females who are active in the foster care population for over six months.

**TABLE K
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS BY SEX 1988-1991
ACTIVE CASES REVIEWED**



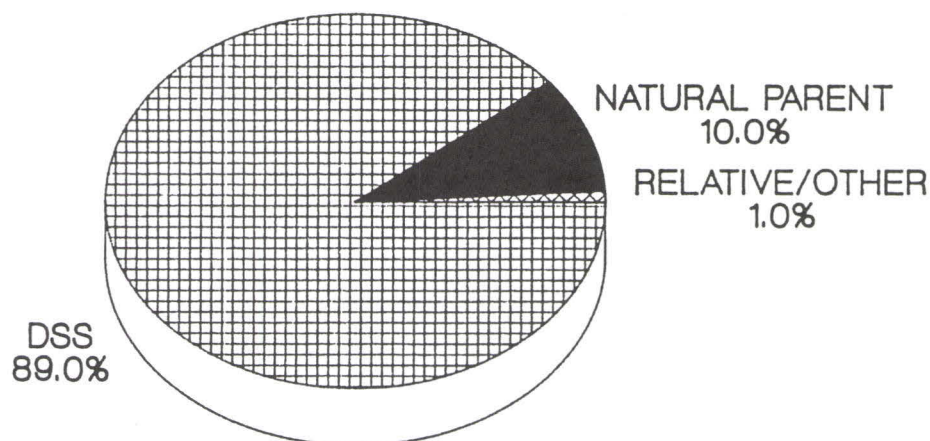
Who holds legal custody of the children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board?

The Foster Care Review Board is legally mandated to review all children who have been in public foster care for a period of more than four consecutive months and all children who have been in private foster care for a period of more than six consecutive months. Children placed in public foster care become wards of the state through a Family Court action with legal custody being held by the Department of Social Services. Legal custody of privately placed children is maintained by birth parents, relatives, or other individuals responsible for placing the child.

The majority of children reviewed, eighty-nine percent (89%), are children in public foster care for whom the Department of Social Services is legally responsible. Of the remaining population of children reviewed by local Review Boards, eleven percent (11%), reside in either private children's homes, Department of Youth Services institutions and/or group homes or John de la Howe School, a state supported institution. During 1991, reviews were conducted at twenty-four private children's homes in the state.

Table L depicts the parties holding legal custody of both privately and publicly placed children in foster care and reviewed during 1991.

**TABLE L
CHILDREN REVIEWED DURING 1991
STATEWIDE PARTIES HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY**



Why are children placed in foster care in South Carolina?

During 1991, children reviewed in South Carolina entered foster care in one of the four following ways: 1) Eighty-three percent (83%) were placed involuntarily through the Family Court as a result of neglect, abuse, abandonment or dependency ; 2) twelve percent (12%) were voluntarily placed by their custodial parents; 3) two percent (2%) entered as a result of a juvenile offense; and 4) three percent (3%) were voluntarily relinquished for the purpose of adoption.

Table M presents statewide data on the percentage of placements for each type of placement. The percentage of children described on Table M combines the categories of physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. The individual categories for each type of abuse are designated with associated percentages in Table N. Statistical data generated by the Review Board annually continues to indicate that neglect, at forty-three percent (43%), continues to be the most frequent reason for placement of children in foster care in South Carolina.

TABLE M
CHILDREN ENTERING CARE AND REVIEWED
DURING 1991
STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASON

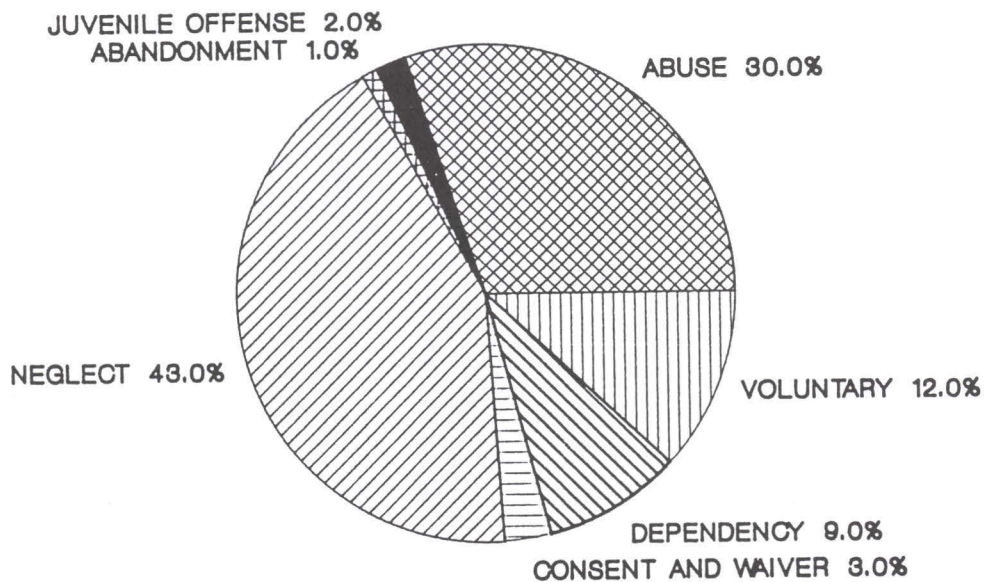


TABLE N
STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASONS FOR
CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE - 1991*

Time Period: 1/1/91-12/31/91

PLACEMENT REASON		FREQUENCY	% OF TOTAL PLACEMENTS
1)	NEGLECT	378	37.5
2)	THREAT/NEGLECT	56	5.6
3)	ABUSE/PHYSICAL	108	10.7
4)	THREAT/PHYSICAL	89	8.8
5)	ABUSE/SEXUAL	79	7.8
6)	THREAT/SEXUAL	21	2.1
7)	ABUSE/EMOTIONAL	-	-
8)	ABANDONMENT	14	1.4
9)	DEPENDENCY	94	9.3
10)	VOLUNTARY	120	11.9
11)	CONSENT AND WAIVER	27	2.7
12)	JUVENILE OFFENSE	23	2.3
TOTALS:		1009	100.0

* Reflects only those children reviewed by the Review Board for the first time during 1991.

Why are so many children placed in foster care due to neglect?

The Review Board studied placement data on the 5216 children active in the system during 1991 and found that neglect was the reason identified for placement for forty-two percent (42%) of those children. The study also examined the number of these children who entered foster care in each of the five categories of neglect: 1) lack of food, clothing and shelter; 2) lack of supervision; 3) medical neglect; 4) emotional neglect; and 5) educational neglect. Tables O, P and Q provide frequency of age for children studied, frequency of each neglect category and a comparison by age of each neglect category. Data provided by the Review Board in this study is used by the S.C. Health and Human Services Finance Commission to develop programs which will decrease the need for foster care placements in neglect situations.

TABLE O
COMPARISON BY AGE
1991 ACTIVE CASES WITH NEGLECT AS PLACEMENT REASON

<u>Age</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1 year or less	125	5.8%
2 - 5 years	556	25.7%
6 - 9 years	532	24.6%
10 - 15 years	625	28.9%
16 - 21 years	<u>327</u>	15.2%
TOTAL	2165	100%

TABLE P
COMPARISON BY NEGLECT CATEGORIES *
1991 ACTIVE CASES WITH NEGLECT AS PLACEMENT REASON

<u>Category</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Lack of food/clothing/shelter	1231	56.9%
Lack of supervision	705	32.6%
Medical neglect	176	8.2%
Emotional neglect	32	1.5%
Educational neglect	<u>21</u>	1%
TOTAL	2165	100%

* Many children studied were placed in foster care for neglect reasons that fell into more than one category. When this occurred, the most predominant reason for the placement was selected.

TABLE Q

COMPARISON OF CATEGORIES OF NEGLECT BY AGE										
Category	One Year or Less		2 - 5 Years		6 - 9 Years		10 -15 Years		16 -21 Years	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Lack of Food/ Clothing/ Shelter	64	51.2%	328	59.0%	317	59.6%	356	57.0%	166	50.8%
Lack of Supervision	40	32.0%	156	28.1%	169	31.8%	216	34.6%	124	38.0%
Medical Neglect	20	16.0%	70	12.6%	40	7.6%	28	4.5%	18	5.6%
Emotional Neglect	1	.8%	2	.4%	3	.6%	16	2.6%	10	3.1%
Educational Neglect	---	---	---	---	3	.6%	9	1.5%	9	2.8%
TOTAL	125	100%	556	100%	532	100%	625	100%	327	100%

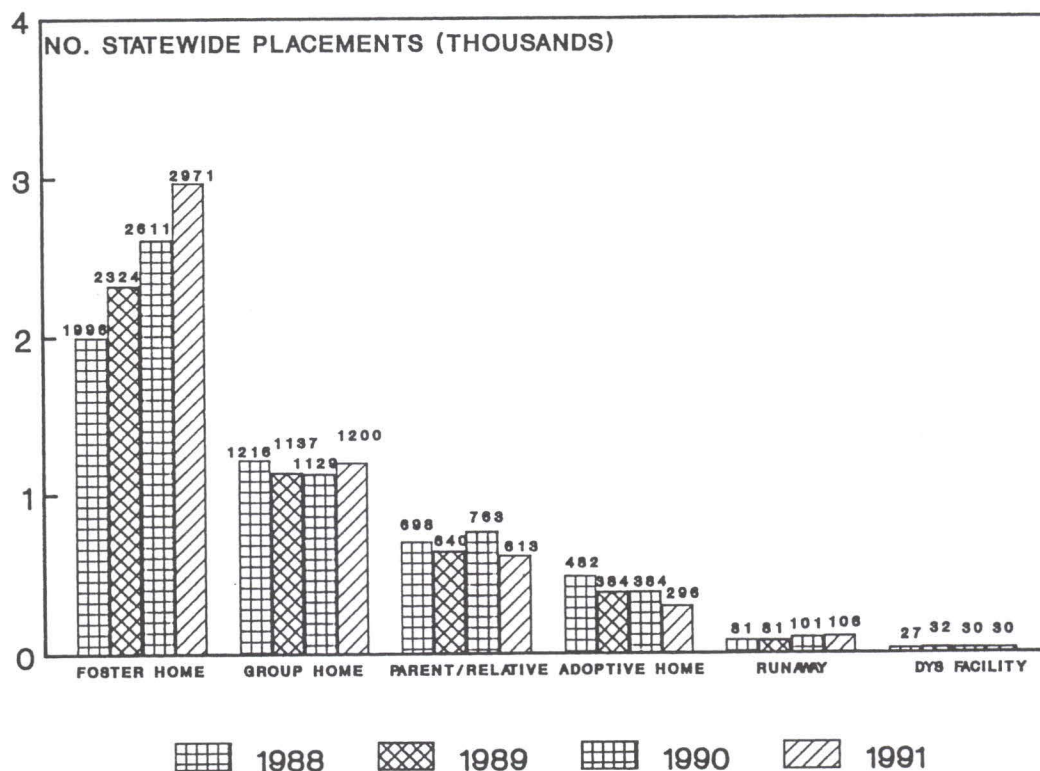
How many children in the foster care system are affected by substance abuse ?

The Review Board has tracked substance abuse related placements for the past two years. Data for 1990 and 1991 indicates that substance abuse was a contributing factor in the placement for thirty-three percent (33%) of the children reviewed during each year.

What kind of foster care placements did children experience?

Children can be placed in several different types of foster care placements. Table R compares the number of children in each type of placement during 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. This data shows a forty-nine percent (49%) increase in the number of children placed in foster homes from 1988 to 1991 and a fourteen percent (14%) increase when comparing 1990 and 1991. The decline in the number of adoptive placement continues with a thirty-eight percent (38%) decrease in the number of children placed in prospective adoptive homes from 1988 to 1991.

**TABLE R
STATEWIDE PLACEMENT LOCATION
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1988 - 1991**

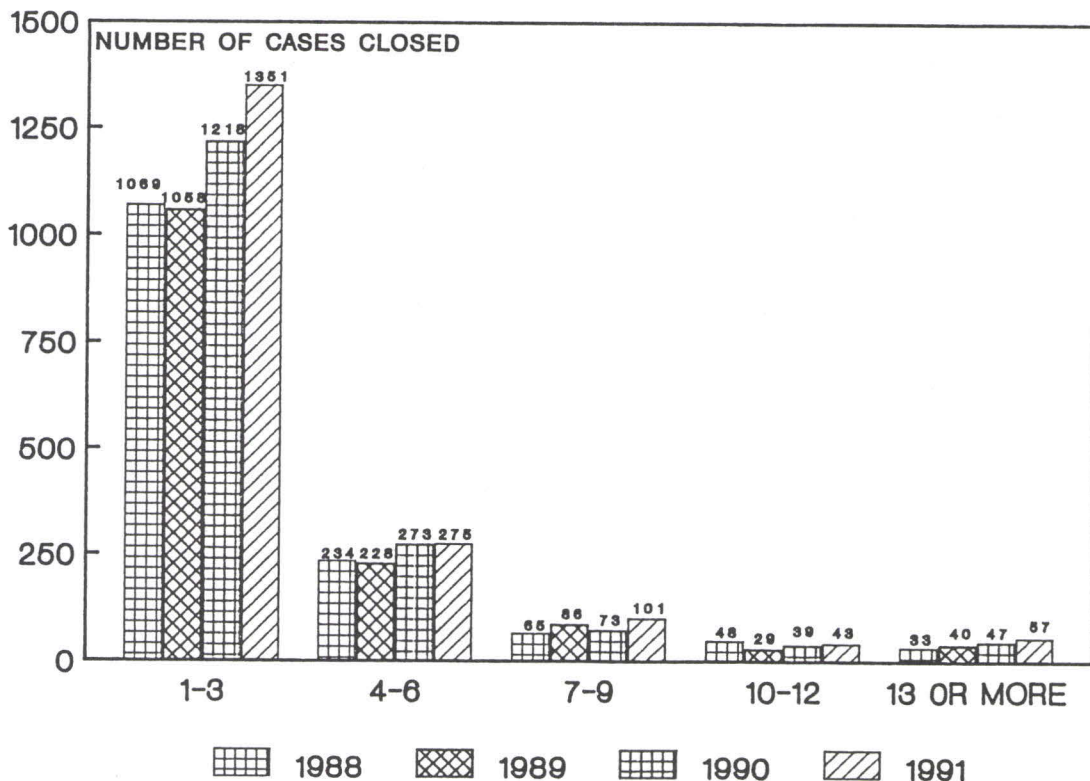


How many placements did children leaving foster care in 1991 experience?

Children removed from their families and placed in foster care frequently experience more than one placement while in care. Research shows the initial placement in foster care is extremely traumatic for a child and additional moves, once in the foster care system, can be very detrimental to the child's development. The younger the child, the more critical the need for stability in one home becomes.

Table S compares the number of placements experienced by children reviewed during 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. This data indicates that the majority of children in foster care experience between one and three different placements while in foster care. Comparison of the 1988 and 1991 data also indicates that there has been a fifty-five percent (55%) increase in the number of children who experience seven to nine different foster care placements.

TABLE S
NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS STATEWIDE - CLOSED
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1988 - 1991



What do local Review Boards recommend for these children?

Local Review Boards issue a written recommendation for a permanent placement plan on each case reviewed. These recommendations are made after the Board has carefully considered all facts presented by the responsible caseworkers and interested parties attending the review. Table T describes the frequency, type and percentage for each of the eleven recommendations issued by local Review Boards on cases reviewed during 1991.

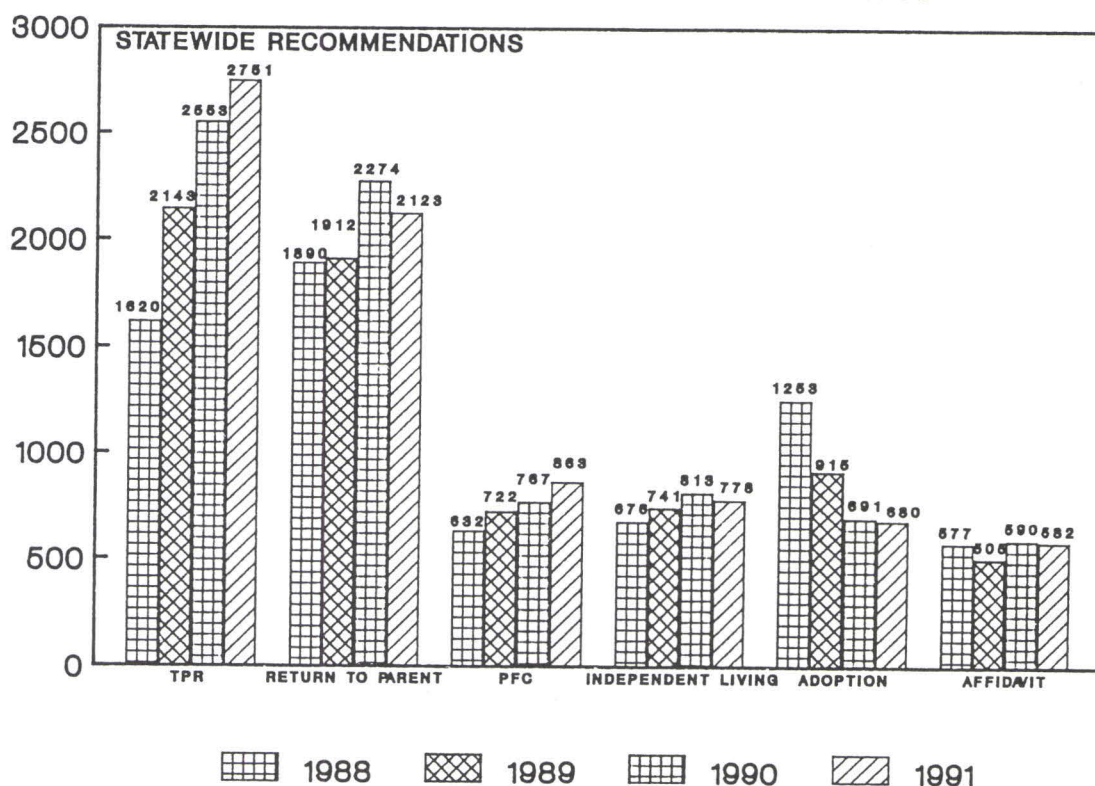
TABLE T
STATEWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS - 1991

Time Period: 1/1/91 - 12/31/91

RECOMMENDATION	FREQUENCY	% OF TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS
1) TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS	2751	31.2
2) RETURN TO PARENT	2123	24.0
3) PERMANENT FOSTER CARE	863	9.8
4) INDEPENDENT LIVING	778	8.8
5) ADOPTION	680	7.7
6) AFFIDAVIT OF SUMMARY REVIEW	582	7.7
7) RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT	380	4.3
8) CASE CONTINUED	308	3.5
9) RELATIVE PLACEMENT	250	2.8
10) PERMANENT GROUP HOME	88	1.0
11) NO REVIEW	23	0.3
TOTALS:	8828	100.0

Table U compares the frequency of the six plans most frequently recommended by local Review Boards during 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. This data indicates an eight percent (8%) increase in the number of recommendations for termination of parental rights as compared to 1990. Data gathered by the Review Board Ad Hoc Adoption Committee indicated that delays in proceeding with termination of parental rights once that has been designated as the agency's plan continues to keep children in the foster care system longer than necessary. Please refer to the findings of this study found on page 16 of this report. Data provided in Table U also indicates a thirteen percent (13%) increase in the number of recommendations for permanent foster care as compared to 1990 figures.

**TABLE U
STATEWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1988 - 1991**

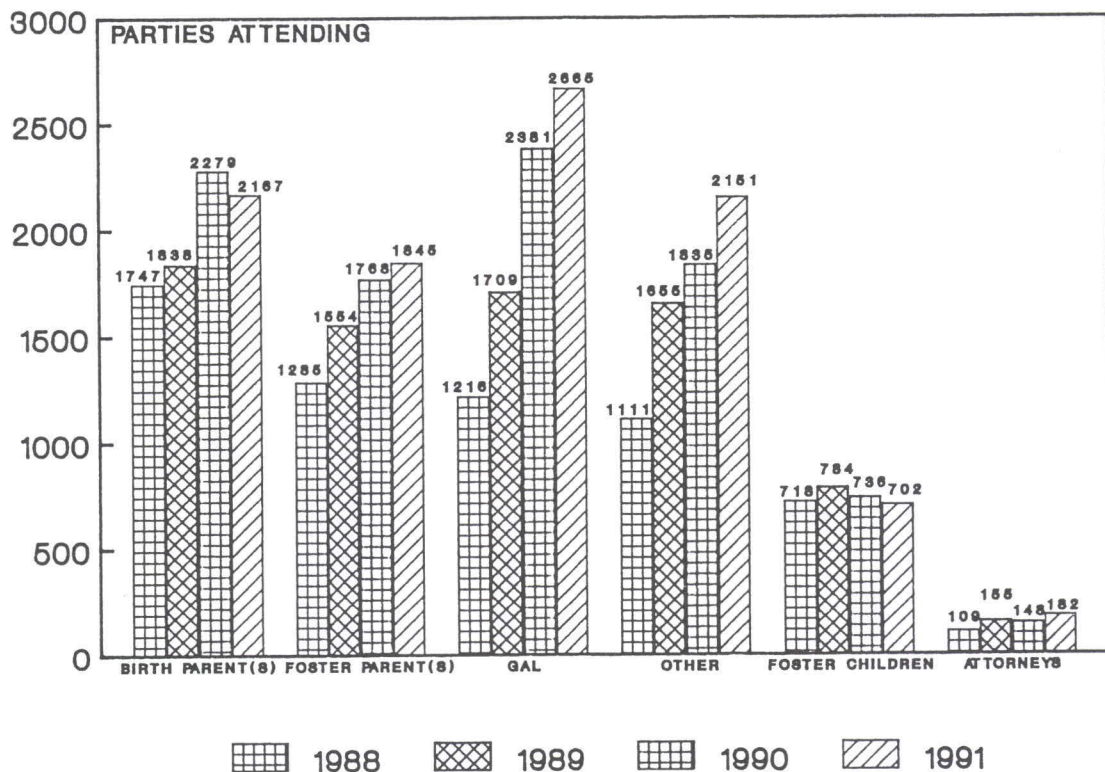


How many interested parties attend reviews?

Review Board regulations require that written notice be sent three weeks prior to the scheduled review to the following individuals at their last known address: both birth/legal parents; legal guardians; current Guardians ad Litem; both foster parents; treatment professionals involved with the foster child and/or family; and foster children ten years of age or older. These notices are distributed by the agency/institution responsible for presenting the case to the Review Board. Regulations also specify that each of these parties should be encouraged to attend the review.

Table V compares the number of interested parties attending reviews in 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. The 1991 attendance totals reflect a forty-nine percent (49%) increase in attendance compared to attendance at reviews in 1988. These numbers also indicate a one percent (1%) increase in the overall percentage of reviews with interested parties present for 1991 as compared to 1990 percentages. The Review Board System is concerned about the five percent (5%) decrease in the number of birth parents and the five percent (5%) decrease in the number of foster children who attended reviews during 1991 as compared to 1990 figures. These two parties provide the Review Board with important information used to make recommendations. The Review Board will use 1992 data to closely monitor future attendance by parents and foster children in an effort to identify and correct causal factors that may be contributing to a decline in attendance.

TABLE V
PARTIES ATTENDING REVIEWS STATEWIDE
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1988 - 1991



Where do children go when they leave foster care?

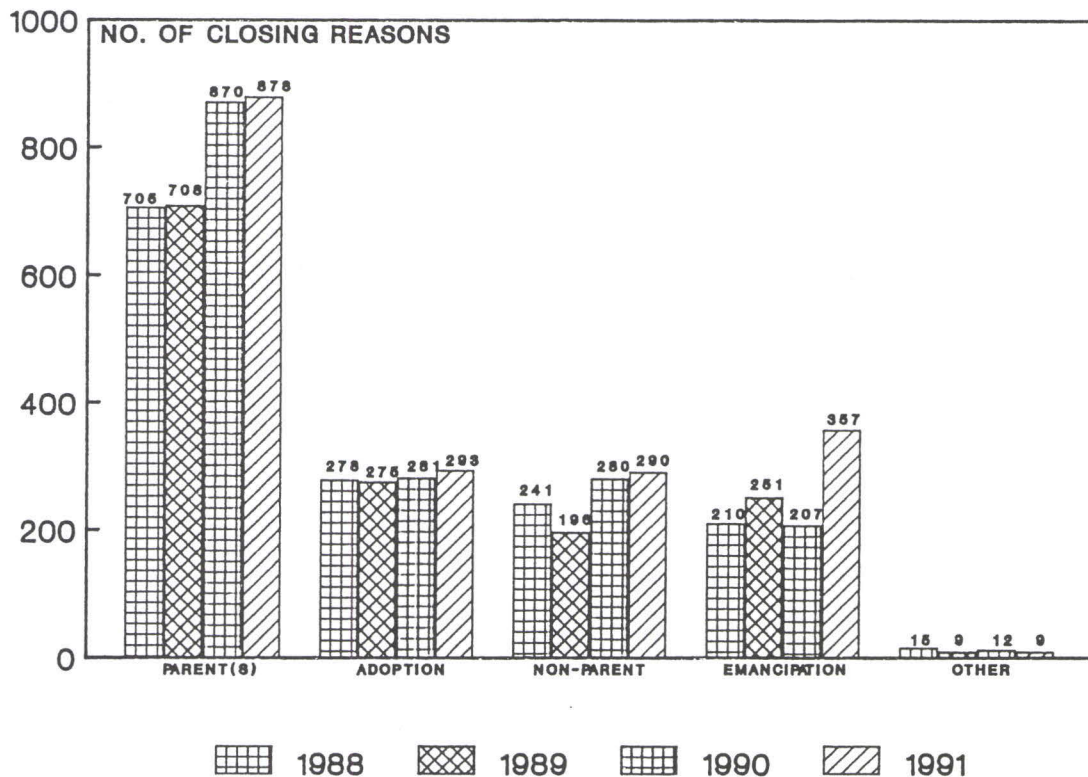
One thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven (1,827) of the children in the Review Board system left care in 1991. Fifty-three percent (53%) of these children were returned to their parents. Seventeen percent (17%) were legally adopted, seventeen percent (17%) had legal custody transferred to relatives or other individuals and thirteen percent (13%) left the system by emancipation.

The increase in the number of children who left foster care by emancipation in 1991 was effected by an internal policy change by the Foster Care Review Board. Budget reductions that occurred during 1991 made it necessary for the Review Board to eliminate reviews conducted for children who were eighteen and older while they remained in school under the Department of Social Service's supervision. Cases of children who fell into this category were closed by the Review Board during a one time project in mid-1991. The Review Board and the Department of Social Services agreed that cessation of these reviews would provide some necessary relief to the staff of both agencies.

Table W compares the number of children leaving foster care in 1991 in each category with the number of children who left care during 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. While the data shows a twenty-five percent (25%) increase in the number of children who returned to their parents from 1988 to 1991, the data shows only a five percent (5%) increase in the number of children who were placed adoptively and a twenty percent (20%) increase in the number of children who had custody transferred to relatives or other individuals.

Data in Table W also indicates a one percent (1%) increase in the number of children who returned to their parents, a four percent (4%) increase in the number of children adopted and a four percent (4%) increase in the number of children who went to live with relatives or other individuals during 1991 when compared to 1990 data.

TABLE W
STATEWIDE CLOSING REASONS
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1988 - 1991



How long do children stay in the foster care system?

A major goal of foster care review is to achieve a permanent placement for a child as soon as possible; therefore, it is important to measure the amount of time a child spends in care. 1991 data shows that the average length of time that a child spends in foster care has decreased from 3.10 years in 1988 to 2.7 years in 1991. The citizen review system has proven to be effective in bringing attention to the many barriers which prolong a child's stay in foster care. Citizen review systems nationwide are committed to working to eliminate these barriers to continue to reduce the amount of time children must spend in out of home placement and to improve the foster care system.

1991-92 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	ADJUSTED APPROPRIATION	YTD ACTIVITY	BUDGET BALANCE	% EXPD
I. STATE APPROPRIATIONS				
A. ADMIN SUPPORT				
Unclassified Pos	45,523.00	45,522.96	0.04	100
Classified Pos	74,542.68	74,542.68	0.00	100
Temporary Pos	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Per Diem	135.00	29.75	105.25	22
Con Svcs	5,000.30	4,800.30	200.00	96
Supplies	759.95	559.95	200.00	73
Fixed Charges	13,209.52	13,009.52	200.00	98
Travel	551.21	351.21	200.00	63
SUBTOTAL	139,721.66	138,816.37	905.29	99
B. LOCAL REVIEW BD				
Classified Pos	275,706.30	275,351.74	354.56	99
Per Diem	35,887.25	34,510.00	1,377.25	96
Con Svcs	16,306.13	15,969.85	336.28	97
Supplies	10,696.57	10,020.55	676.02	93
Fixed Charges	29,424.21	29,212.41	211.80	99
Travel	33,357.88	33,353.00	4.88	99
Equipment	24,885.00	23,749.01	1,135.99	95
SUBTOTAL	426,263.34	422,166.56	4,096.78	99
C. EMPLOYER CONTRI	92,242.00	92,171.07	70.93	99
D. PROTECTION & ADV	429,262.00	429,262.00	0.00	100
TOTAL STATE	1,087,489.00	1,082,416.00	5,073.00	26
II. OTHER FUNDS				
A. LOCAL REVIEW BD/ MEDICAID				
Classified Pos	7,101.50	0.00	7,101.50	0
Per Diem	379.50	0.00	379.50	0
Con Svcs	227.50	0.00	227.50	0
Supplies	126.00	0.00	126.00	0
Fixed Charges	427.00	0.00	427.00	0
Travel	344.50	0.00	344.50	0
Equipment	1,084.00	791.70	292.30	73
SUBTOTAL	9,690.00	791.70	8,898.30	8
B. EMPLOYER CONTRI	1,580.00	0.00	1,580.00	0
TOTAL STATE	11,270.00	791.70	10,478.30	70

III. FEDERAL FUNDS

A. ADMIN SUPPORT/ TITLE IV-E

Con Svcs	801.06	721.99	79.07	90
Supplies	404.00	96.86	307.14	23
Fixed Charges	1,520.00	1,276.01	243.99	83
Travel	118.00	59.05	58.95	50
SUBTOTAL	2,843.06	2,153.91	689.15	75

B. LOCAL REVIEW BD/ TITLE IV-E

Classified Pos	58,956.44	49,054.52	9,901.92	83
Per Diem	12,477.50	6,095.25	6,382.25	48
Con Svcs	4,368.70	3,966.79	401.91	90
Supplies	3,122.00	1,770.28	1,351.72	56
Fixed Charges	5,940.00	5,084.44	855.56	85
Travel	13,040.50	7,454.67	5,585.83	74
Equipment	14.00	0.00	14.00	0
SUBTOTAL	97,919.14	73,425.95	24,493.19	74

C. EMPLOYER CONTRI/ TITLE IV-E

	14,975.80	12,782.48	2,193.32	85
TOTAL TITLE IV-E	115,738.00	88,362.34	27,375.66	76
INDIRECT COST		17,346.00	-17,346.00	
TOTAL FEDERAL	115,738.00	105,708.34	10,029.66	91

GRAND TOTAL	1,214,497.00	1,188,916.00	25,580.96	98
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DOCUMENTS

Manual of Policies and Procedures relating to the Children's Foster Care Review Board System in South Carolina, (revised January 1990)

Review Board Handbook, June 1991

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to July 1977

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to January 1978

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to January 1979

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1979 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1980 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1981 Calendar Year

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A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1987 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1988 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1989 Calendar Year

State Advisory Board Reports to the General Assembly: 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983

Board of Directors Reports to the General Assembly: 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990

Stepping Stones, Volume I Number 1, Spring 1986

Stepping Stones, Volume I Number 2, Summer 1986

Stepping Stones, Volume I Number 3, Fall 1986

Stepping Stones, Volume I Number 4, Winter 1986

Stepping Stones, Volume I Number 5, Spring 1987

Stepping Stones, Volume I Number 6, Summer 1987

Stepping Stones, Volume I Number 7, Fall 1987

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Stepping Stones, Volume III Number 1, Winter 1989

Stepping Stones, Volume III Number 2, Spring 1989

Stepping Stones, Volume III Number 3, Summer 1989

Stepping Stones, Volume III Number 4, Fall 1989

Stepping Stones, Volume IV Number 1, Winter 1990

Stepping Stones, Volume IV Number 2, Spring 1990

Stepping Stones, Volume IV Number 3, Summer 1990

Stepping Stones, Volume IV Number 4, Fall 1990

Stepping Stones, Volume V Number 1, Winter 1991

Stepping Stones, Volume V Number 2, Spring/Summer 1991

Stepping Stones, Volume VI Number 1, Winter 1992

APPENDIX A

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

AD HOC ADOPTION STUDY COMMITTEE STATISTICAL SURVEYS

November 20, 1991

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS CONCURRENCE SURVEY

VARIABLES SELECTED FOR STUDY

The children selected for this study were identified as those reviewed between January 1, 1991 and June 30, 1991 for whom the local Review Board recommended termination of parental rights and adoption as the permanent plan and the county Department of Social Services concurred that termination of parental rights and adoption was also their plan.

TOTAL CHILDREN IDENTIFIED: 940

SAMPLE GROUPS ANALYZED

From the 940 children identified, biographical information was studied on a sample group of 207 children. This sample included all children identified from the six Area Adoption offices and three or more children from each County DSS.

SAMPLE GROUP: 207

Age

one year or less:	32
2 - 5 years:	81
6 - 9 years:	53
10 - 15 years:	40
16 - 21 years:	1

Race

Black	133
White	72
Other	2

Sex

Male	115
Female	92

A subset of the sample was extracted for analysis on specific factors determined from case review. This data is outlined below.

TOTAL CHILDREN ANALYZED IN SUBSET: 190

Identified as special needs:	133	(70%)
Foster parent adoption planned:	95	(50%)
Special Needs & foster par. adopt:	60	(32%)
Referred to Adoption:	166	(87%)
Referred to Legal Services:	89	(47%)
Cases with Areas of Concern:	72	(38%)
Cases with Delays to Permanance:	68	(36%)
Cases referred for follow-up:	41	(22%)
Average Number of TPR Recs by Board:	3	

DELAY TO PERMANENCE SURVEY

A survey was conducted on Delays to Permanence in the Adoption and Legal categories for children reviewed from January .1, 1991 to June 30, 1991. The most frequently occurring reasons for delays were used to provide breakdowns for the two categories. Findings are outlined below.

ADOPTION DELAYS

TOTAL CHILDREN IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME PERIOD: 87

Incomplete paperwork, i.e homestudies, applications	44
No recruitment	25
Lack of coordination between permanency planning & adoption	15
Other	3

LEGAL DELAYS

TOTAL CHILDREN IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME PERIOD: 45

TPR hearing delayed	22
No merit/judicial review	15
Other	8

Total Number of Documents Printed	<u>706</u>
Cost Per Unit	<u>\$ 2.28</u>
Printing Cost - S.C. State Budget & Control Board (up to 255 copies)	<u>\$ 600.89</u>
Printing Cost - Individual Agency (requesting over 255 copies and/or halftones)	<u>\$ 1011.31</u>
Total Printing Cost	<u>\$ 1612.20</u>

